Le Cirque de Karakuri

からくりサーカス

22

KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

藤田和日郎

SS comics

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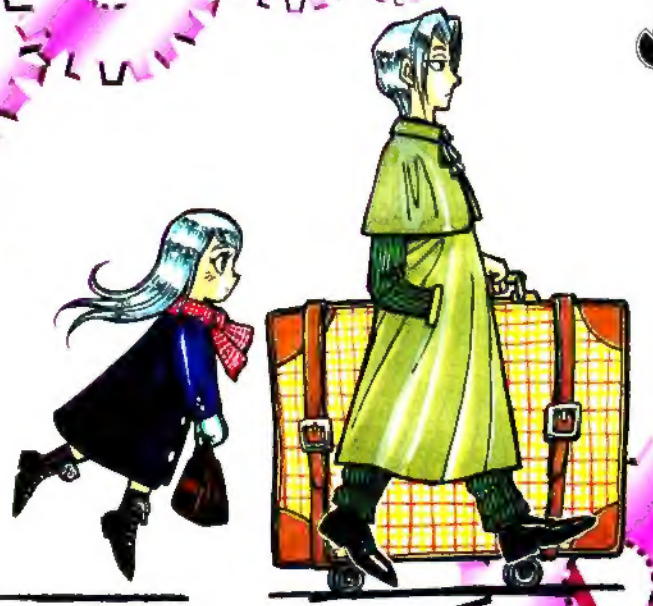

SS comics

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KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

「フランシーヌ人形はニセ者だった!」
長きに渡る、しろがねたちの激闘は何だったのか?
全てが潰えた砂漠の真ん中で、鳴海は咆える!

ところ変わって日本では、いよいよ勝が動き出す。
過去の真実を得るために、自分の秘密を知るために。
ご存じ、超熱血機巧活劇、新たなる旅立ちの第22巻であります。

ふぢたスタヂヲ秘蔵トークラークルット シリーズ

「新人不再修中」 by ふぢた

たしかに。 たかだか3ぷりじかん かかるんだよなァ…

久しぶりの登場となった勝としろがね、それに仲町サーカスの面々。出演させていて楽しかったけど、あっという間に勝一人。親であるところの作者は、子供に甘えさせないんだもんね。それに…次の巻から勝は、重大なことを一人で知っていかねばならんのですもん。だから、君達に言うことはひとつ。

次も読んでちょーだい!!

藤田和日郎
KAZUHIRO FUJITA PRESENTS

ブカブカ、トンドン。さぁさ皆様、前へお詰めくださいませ。本巻で、長かった「からくり編」は閉幕に御座居ます。ですが気の早いお客様、また席をお立ちにならぬよう。「サーカス編」最終章が、開幕いたします。この番組で、からくり全体のふけた結末——つまりは様々な謎が、どんどん埋まってゆくハズで御座居ます。では、「からくりサーカス」第22巻、鷹揚の御見物を願います！

●AD／伊波光則 ●ロゴ&カバーデザイン／草子典子＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ ●カバーイラスト／藤田和日郎

22
からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri
SHIROGANE
K.FUJITA
藤田和日郎

★前巻までのあらすじ★

「最古の四人」との死闘の末、次々と倒れていくしろがね達。

瀕死の重傷を負い、手術中に体が石化した鳴海は、希望を託して死んでいった仲間達の糸操り人形の体の一部を縫合され、危機を脱出。

そこへ、呪縛から解かれた自動人形の攻撃が再開。愛する鳴海を守るため、ファティマは自ら囮となって反撃に出る。

そしてついに、意識を取り戻した鳴海が、銀色の髪で復活。ファティマのピンチを救い、残る「最古の四人」を一撃で倒してゆく…

だが、追いつめた最終目標のフランシーヌ人形が90年も前から偽物だったと知り、鳴海はがく然とする!!

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■藤田和日郎■

からくり～最終幕

第51幕

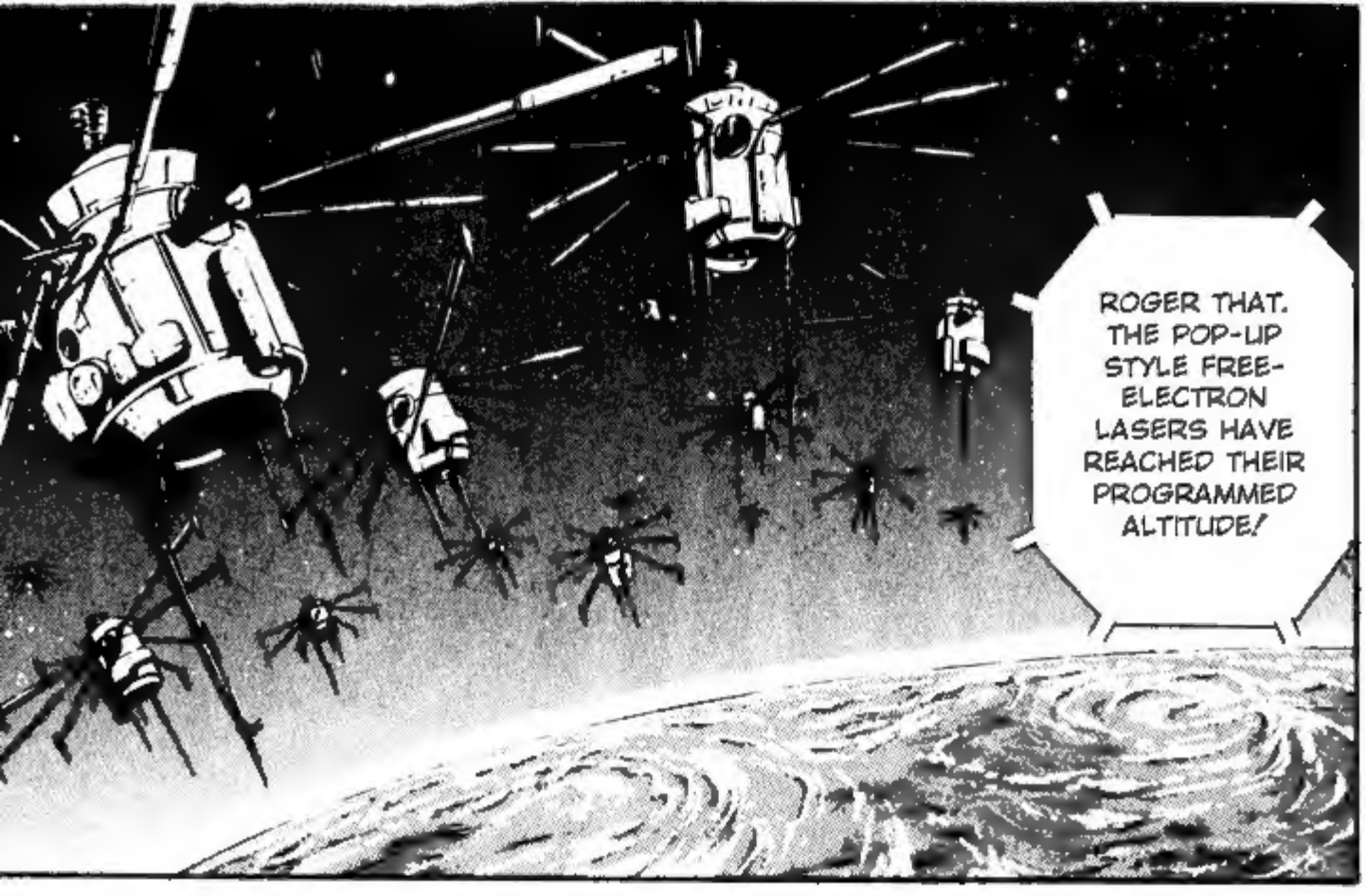
最後のひとつ

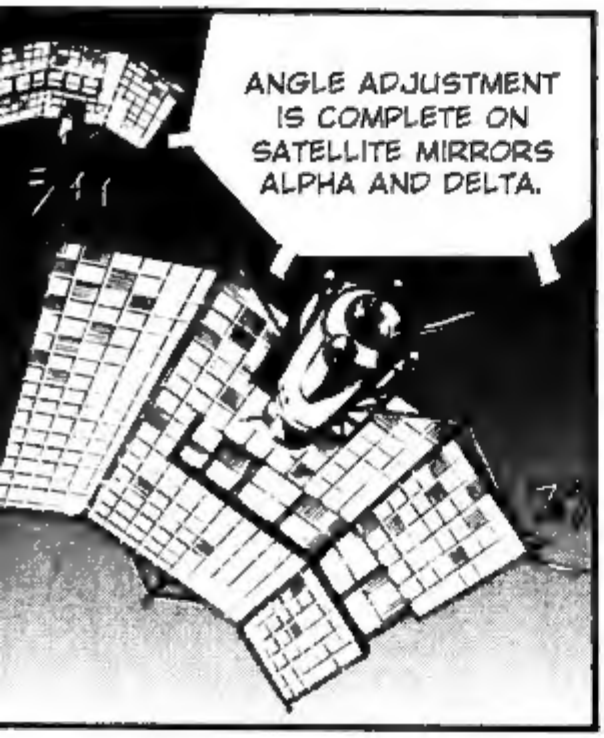
!?

SO THE DOLL FRANCINE ...
WENT TO JAPAN, THEN...?
BUT ...
JAPA-NESE ?!
THIS IS JAPA-NESE!!

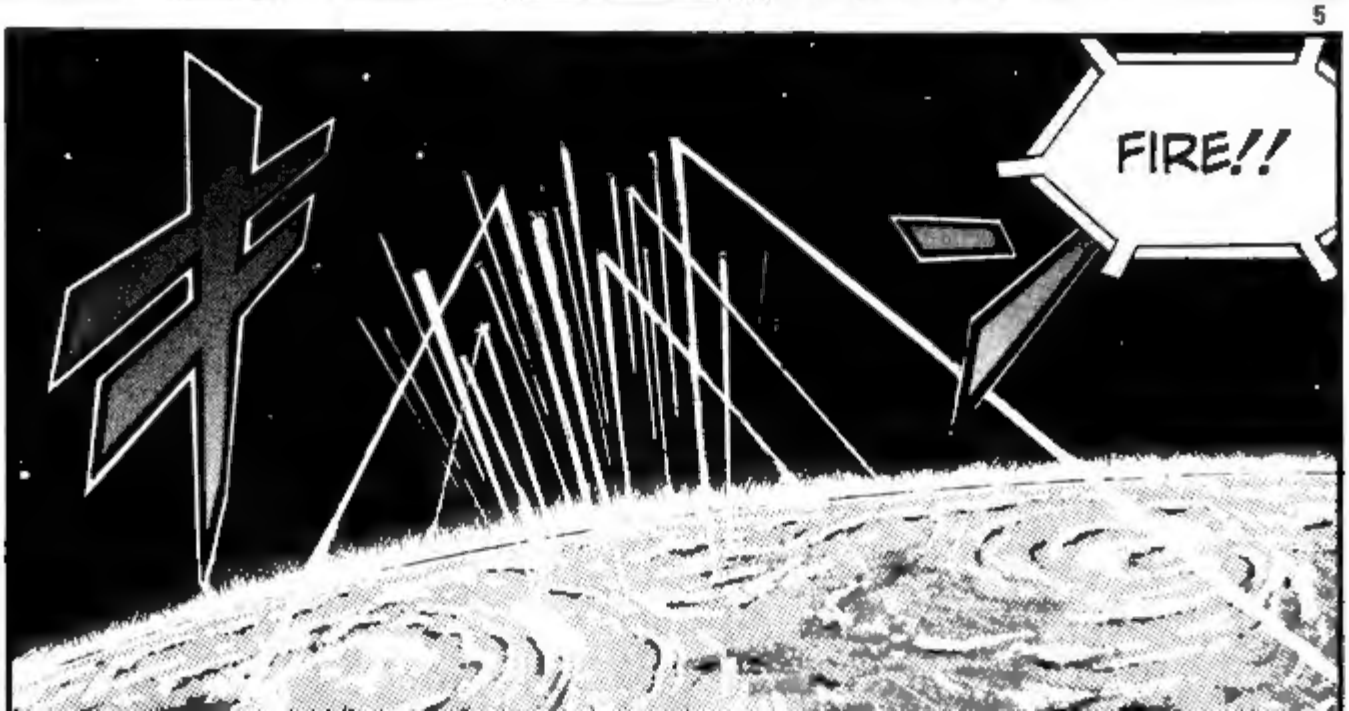
IT'S ALL OVER NOW ....!
BUT KNOWING THAT WON'T HELP!

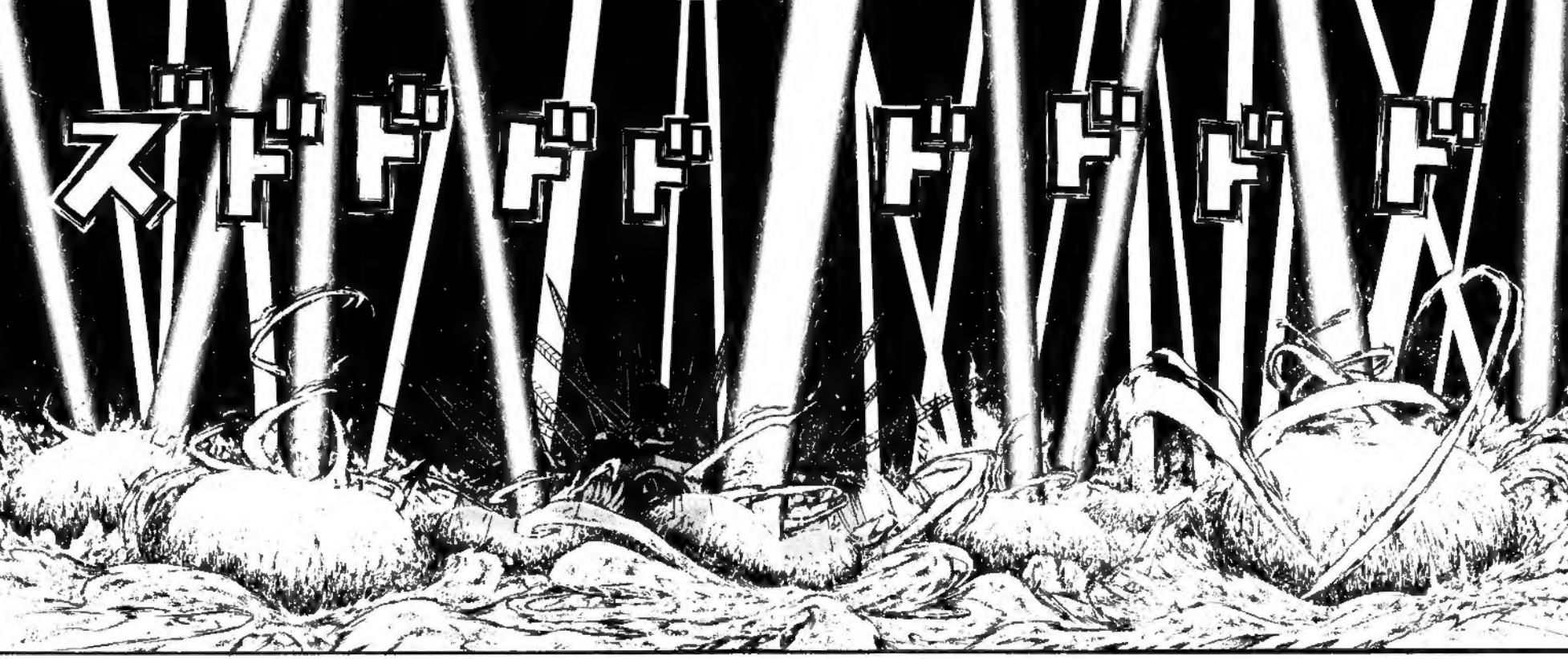
AFTER 8 VOLLEYS OF THE MESCALEPTOR MISSILES, THE SILVER SMOKE IS 90% DISSIPATED FROM THE ATMOSPHERE ABOVE THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS!
OUR TARGET NOW IS THE ENEMY'S MAIN BODY...
IT'S TIME TO SHIFT INTO PHASE 2!
ALL COUNTRIES PREPARE YOUR HIGH-ALTITUDE OPTICAL WEAPONS AND COMMENCE THE DIRECT ATTACK!


ROGER THAT. THE POP-UP STYLE FREE-ELECTRON LASERS HAVE REACHED THEIR PROGRAMMED ALTITUDE!


ANGLE ADJUSTMENT IS COMPLETE ON SATELLITE MIRRORS ALPHA AND DELTA.

THE CHEMICAL LASER CANNON HAS ACHIEVED EXCITATION POINT. WE ARE FIRING!


FIRE!!



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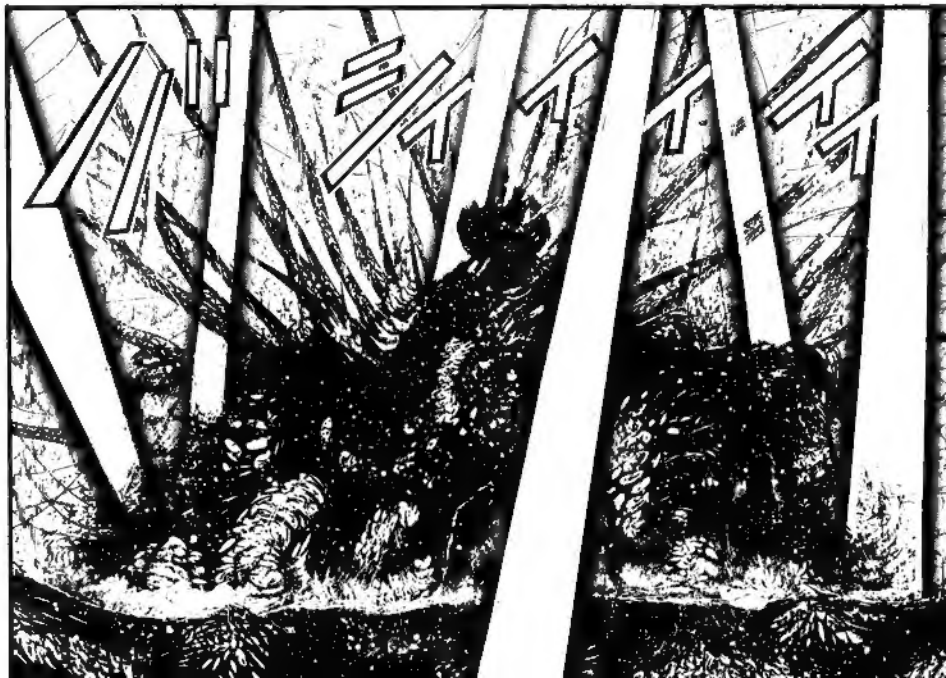
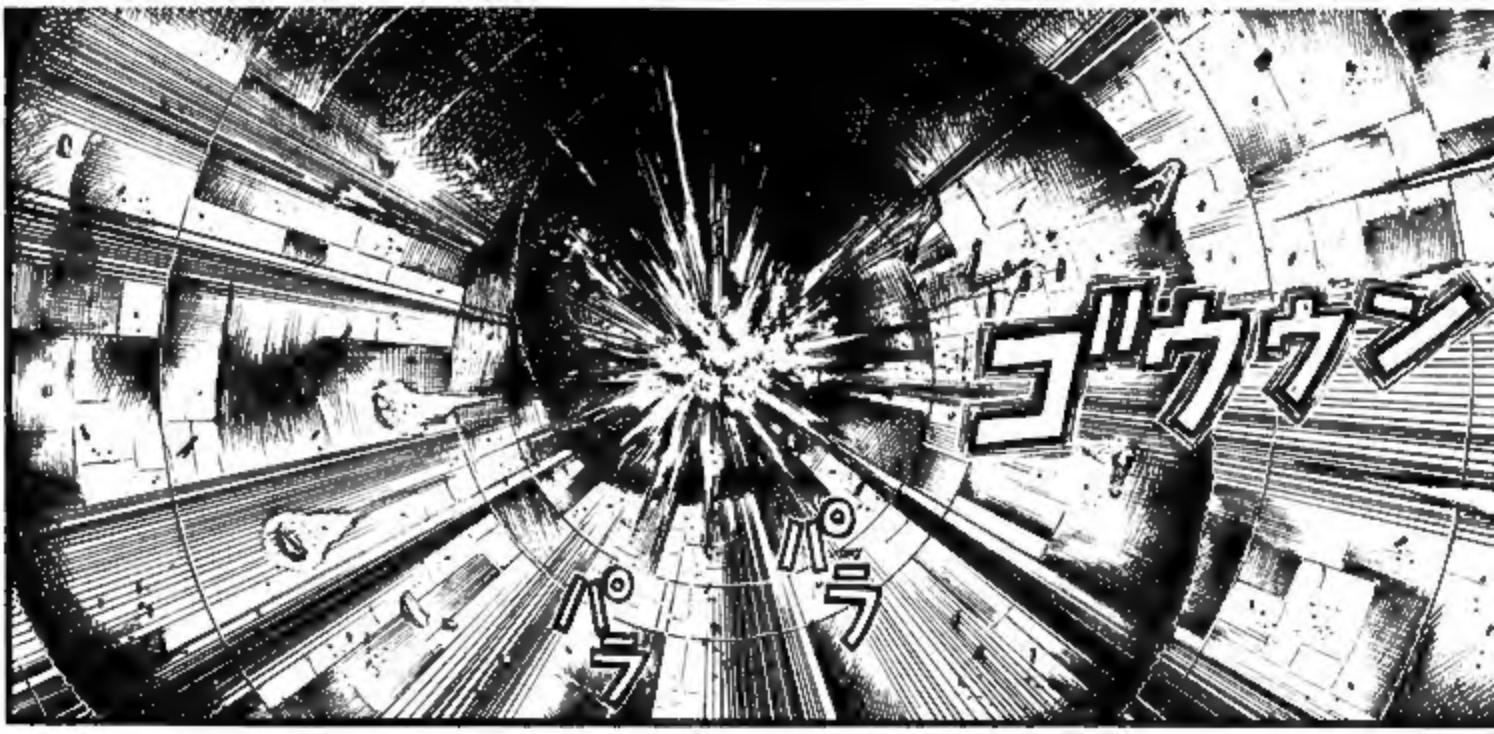
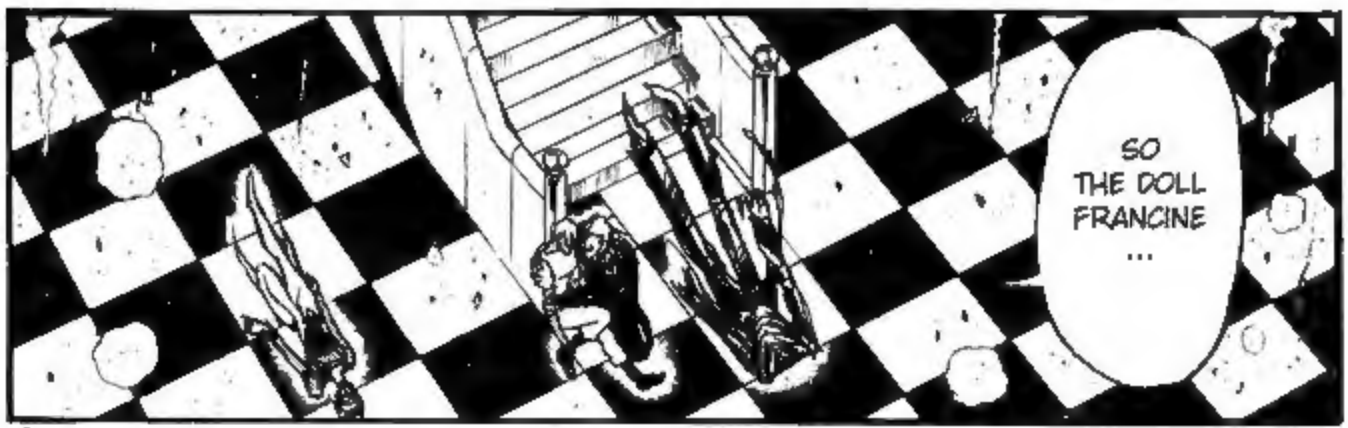



ゴウウン
パラ
パラ

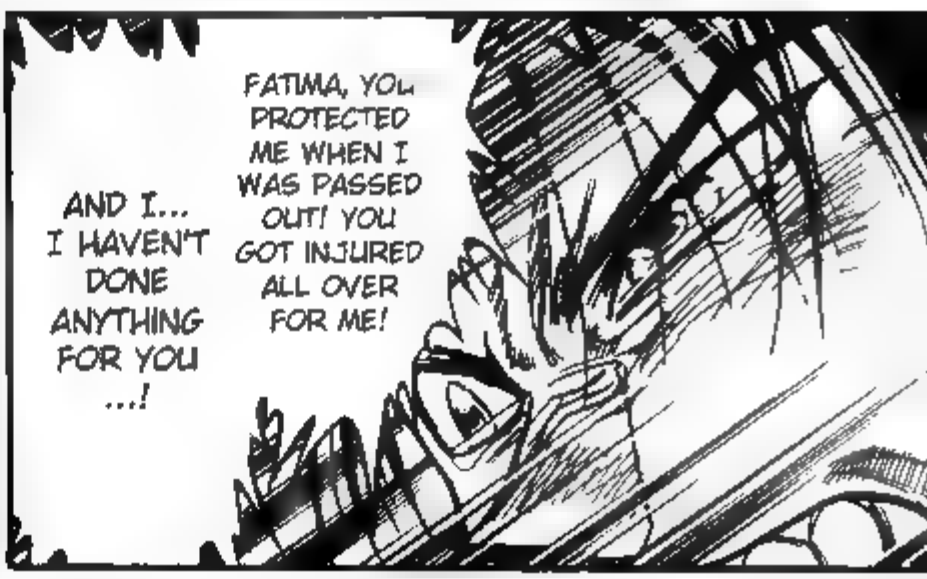

SO THE DOLL FRANCINE ...

I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT ...
AND THE ALITOMATA ARE... FINISHED NOW...

BEEN DES-TROYED ...
HAS FINALLY ...

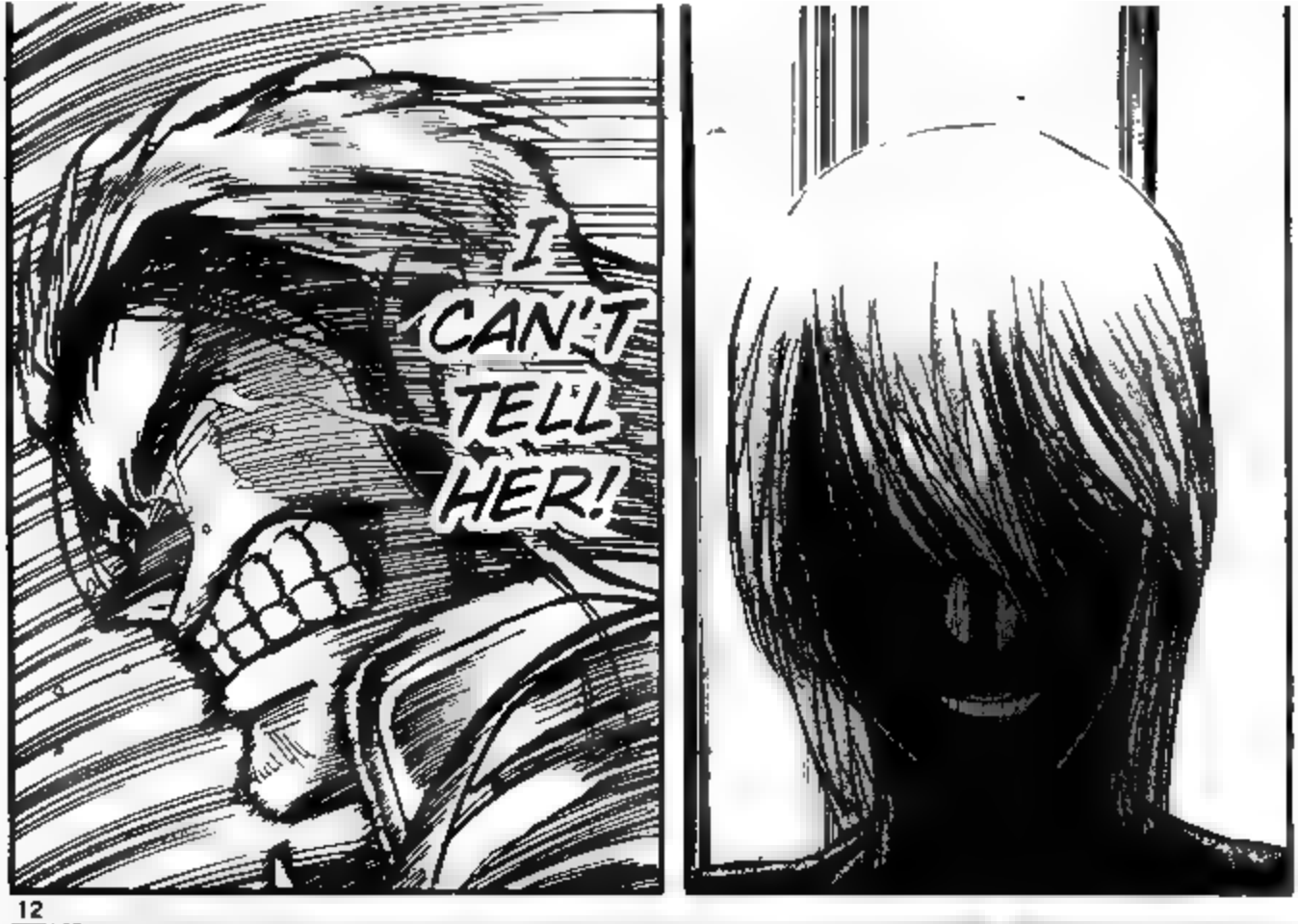
MR. NARUMI, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU..
NO ...
I... I...
HUH ?
PLEASE GO... NOW...
I.
DO NOT WANT YOU TO SEE ME... AT THE END
AND... DO NOT LOOK BACK ...
FATIMA WHAT ...?

NO! YOU CAN'T DO THIS!
THIS IS... GOODBYE ...
...I PUSHED MYSELF... TOO HARD WHEN I FOUGHT PANTALONE. I'VE LOST TOO MUCH BLOOD...
DON'T BE RIDI-CULOUS! JUST HANG IN THERE!


AND I... I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING FOR YOU ...!
FATIMA, YOU PROTECTED ME WHEN I WAS PASSED OUT! YOU GOT INJURED ALL OVER FOR ME!

DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD...

I AM... AT PEACE.
SFX: CRACKING
I DID... WHAT I WANTED TO DO. AND THAT'S ALL...
NOW GO... PLEASE ...
I CAN'T SAY IT.
FATIMA, THAT DOLL!... THE DOLL FRAN-CINE WAS...!


I CAN'T TELL HER!

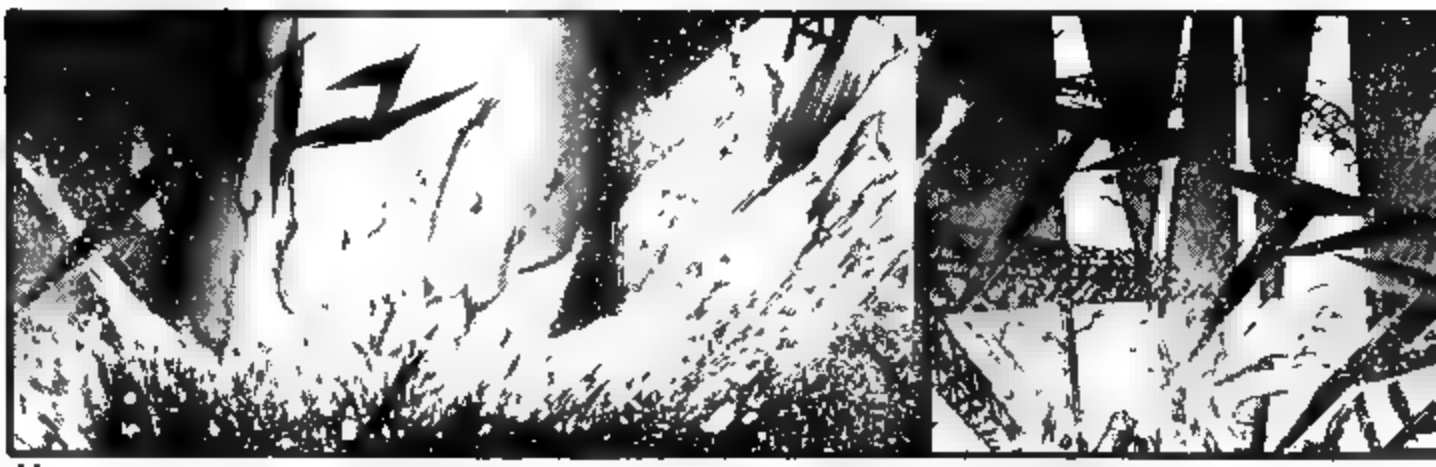
MING-HAI!
カッ

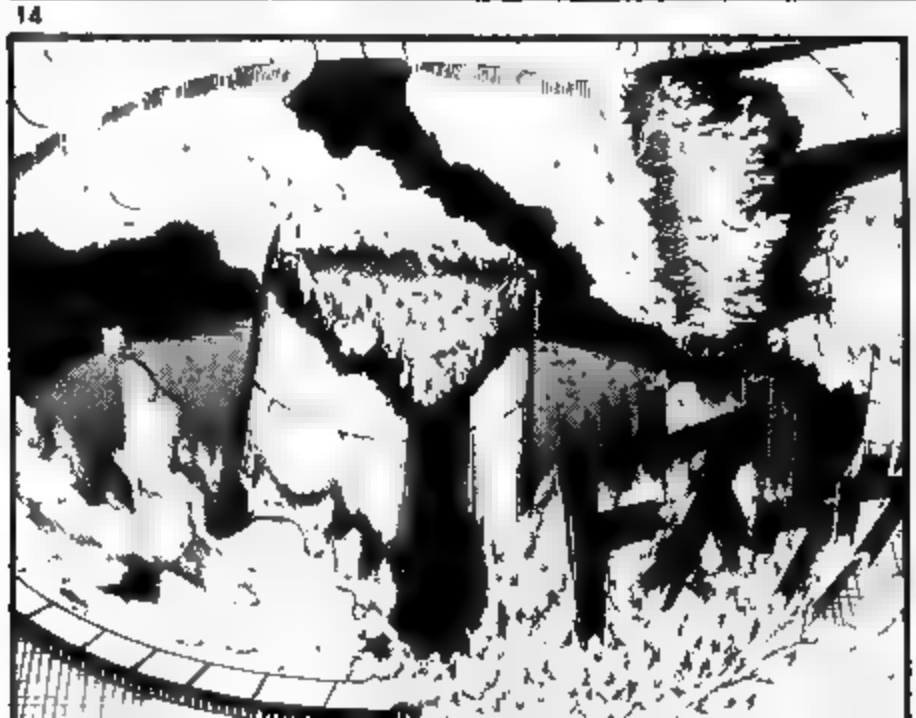
YOU DESTROYED PANTALONE AND FRAN-CINE!
YOU DID IT!
... MING-XIA...

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE FACE OF THE MAN WHO BROUGHT AN END...
TO THE LONG FIGHT BETWEEN THE SHIROGANE AND AUTO-MATA...
WELL DONE... NARUMI.
ROCK-ENFIELD ...

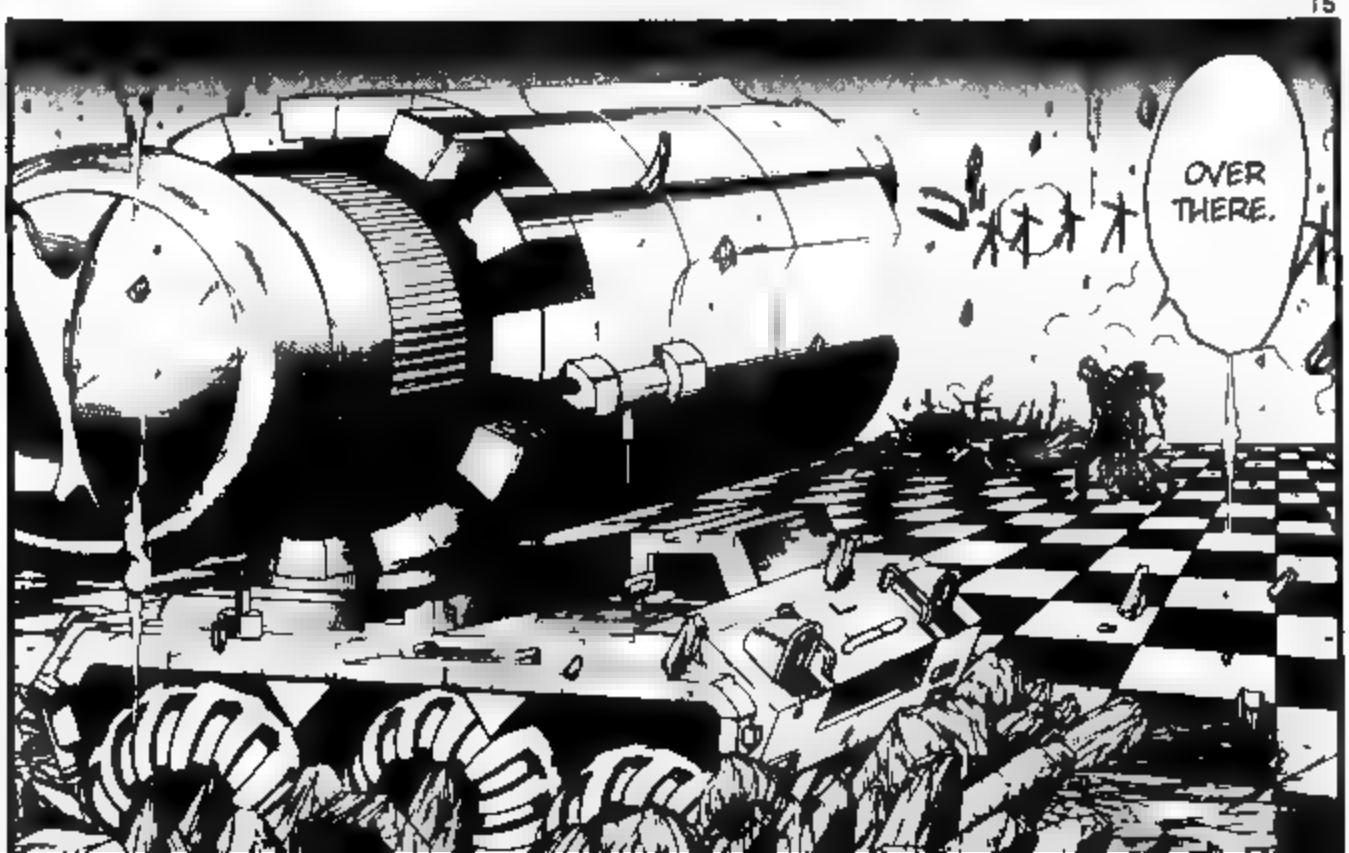
ROCKEN-
FIELD...

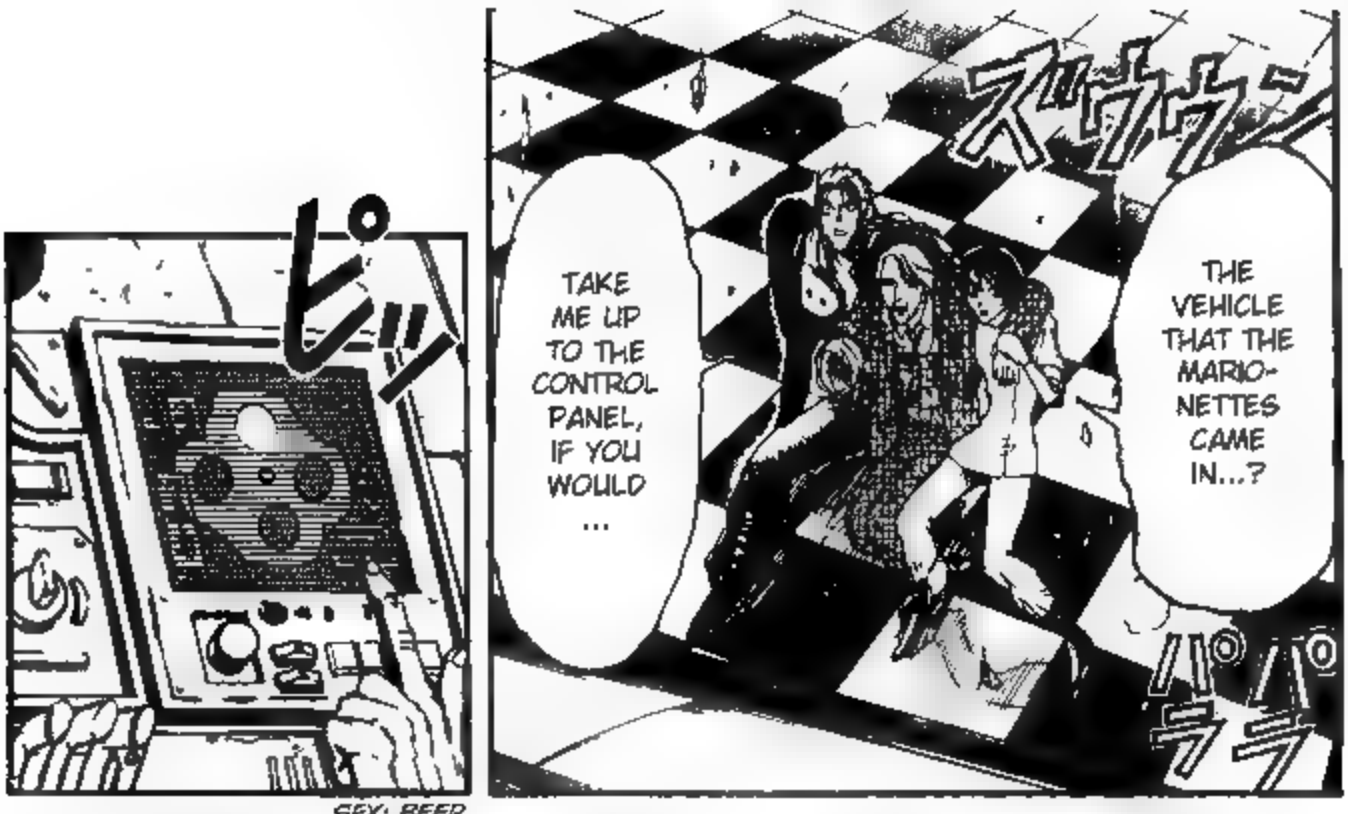
BUT I'M
AFRAID MY
EYESIGHT...
IS DIMMING
...

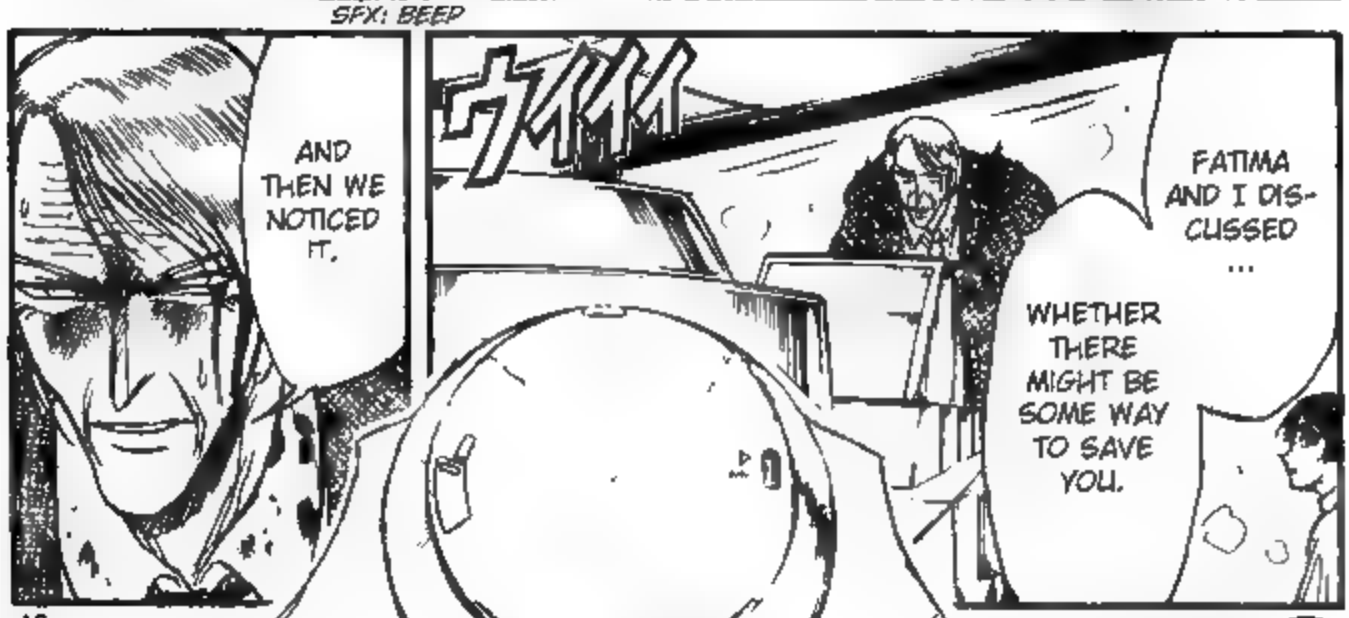


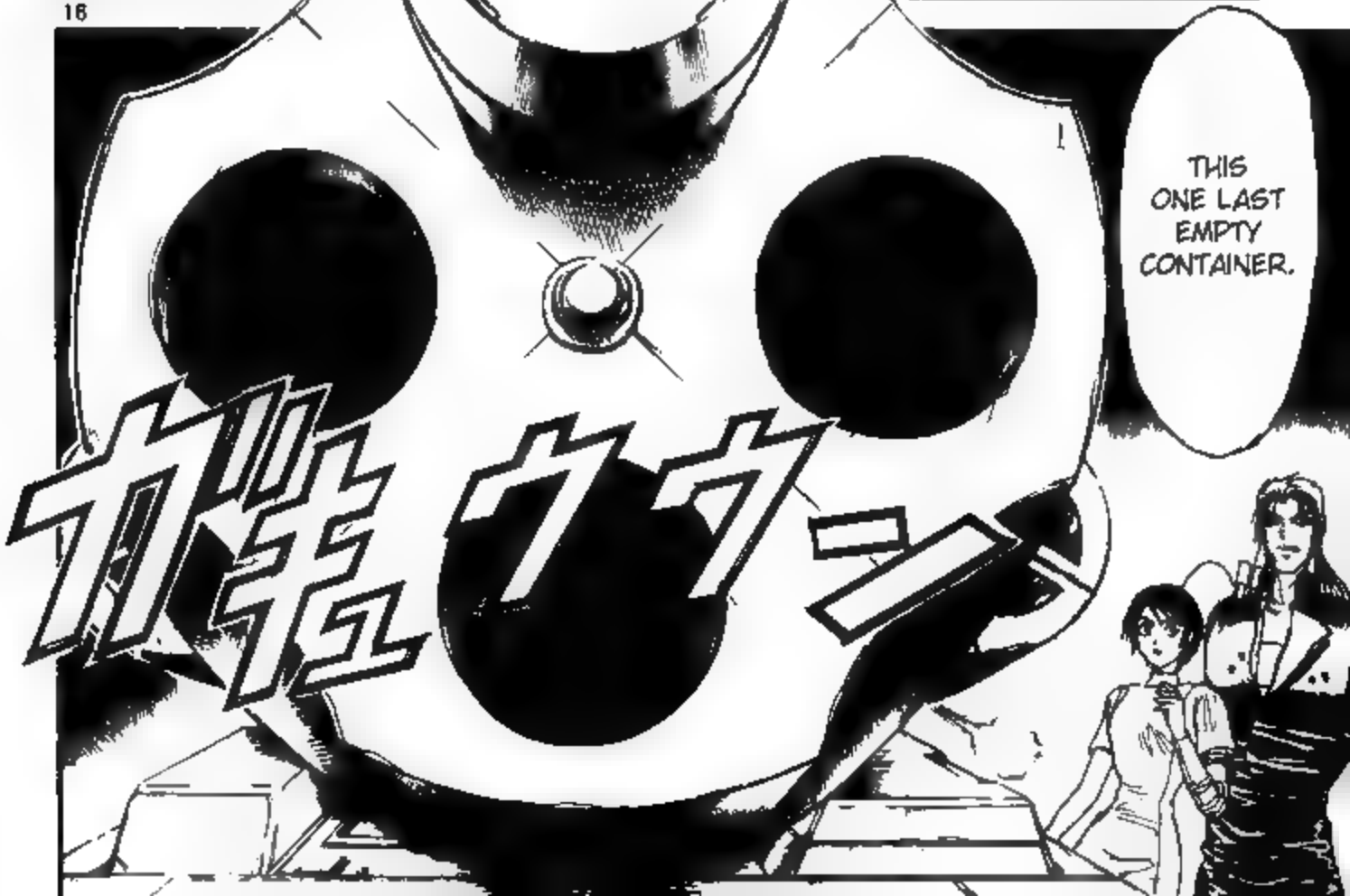


OH... RIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! HELP ME HOLD ROCK-ENFIELD UP!
EEK!
... NO ...
THIS WAY!
LET'S AT LEAST GET AWAY FROM THE FALLING DEBRIS.

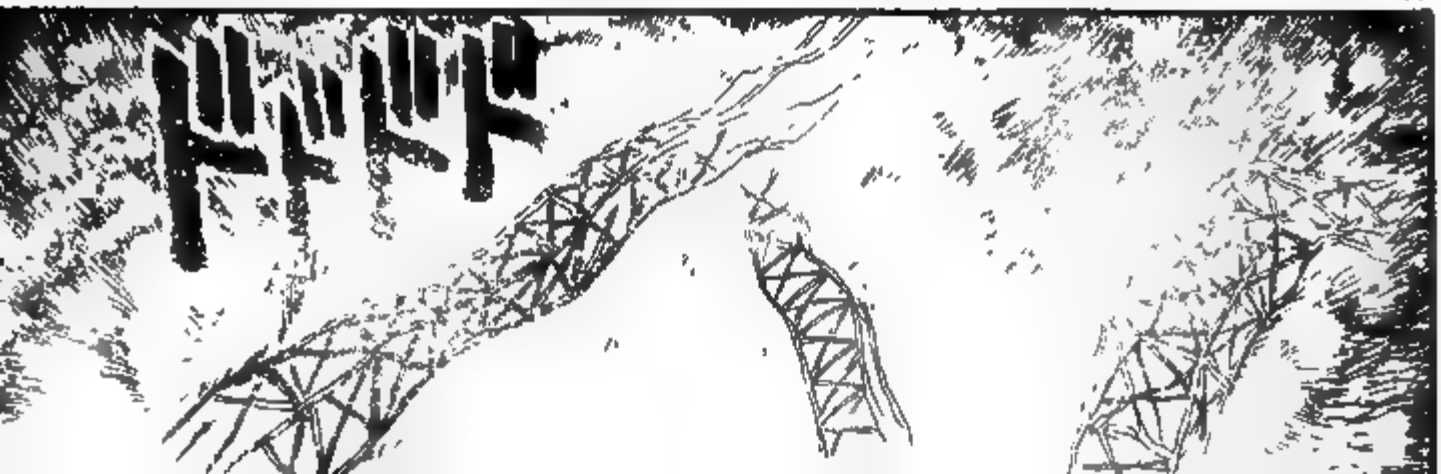

OVER THERE.


ピッ
SFX: BEEP
TAKE ME UP TO THE CONTROL PANEL, IF YOU WOULD ...
THE VEHICLE THAT THE MARIO-NETTES CAME IN...?


AND THEN WE NOTICED IT.
FATIMA AND I DIS-CUSSED ...
WHETHER THERE MIGHT BE SOME WAY TO SAVE YOU.


THIS ONE LAST EMPTY CONTAINER.

ドオオ
SO YOU MEAN THERE'S A WAY ...
FOR US TO SURVIVE ...?
ズゥウ
IF YOU CLIMB INTO IT AND HAVE THE VEHICLE LAUNCH IT OUTSIDE, YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE TENT.
ROCK-ENFIELD... YOU'RE GETTING IN TOO, RIGHT ...?
HOLD ON.
HURRY, NOW. GET INTO THE CONTAINER ...



TO HOLD TWO PEOPLE.

UN-FORTU-NATELY, NARUMI ...
THIS CONTAINER IS ONLY BIG ENOUGH ...

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

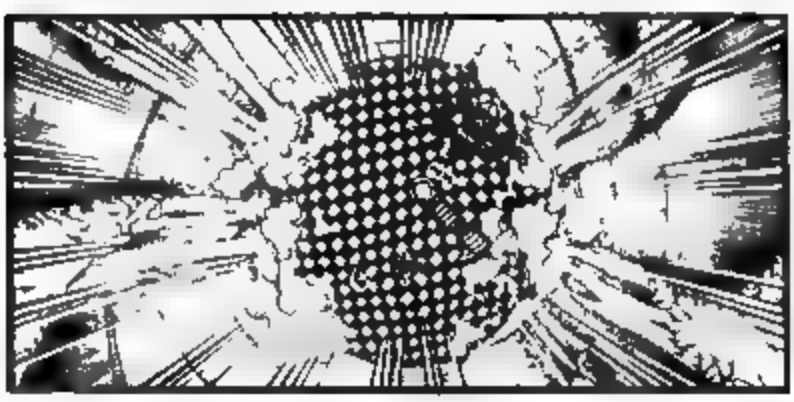
These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

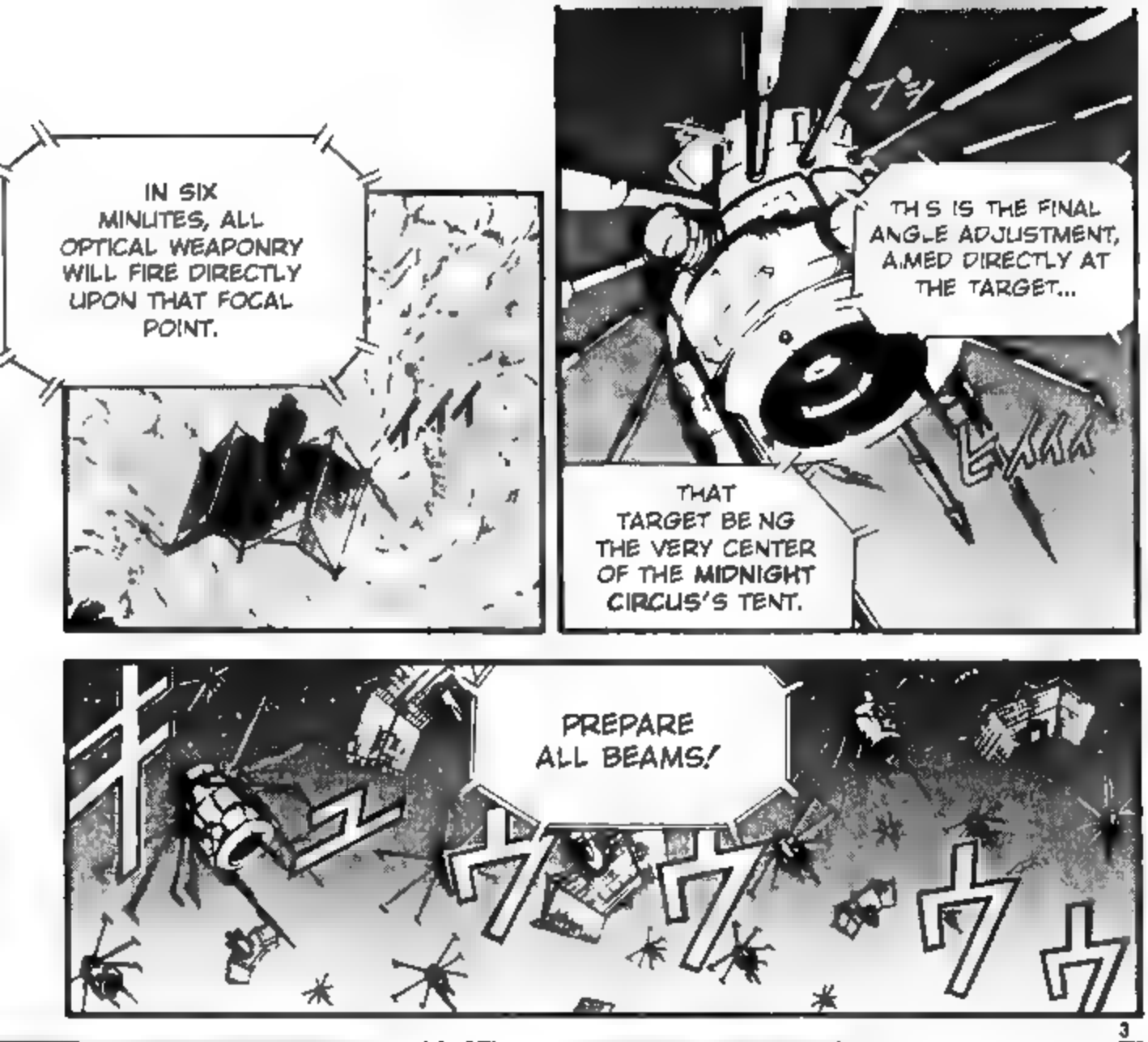
Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

Act 52
The Starry Sky, and a Flash

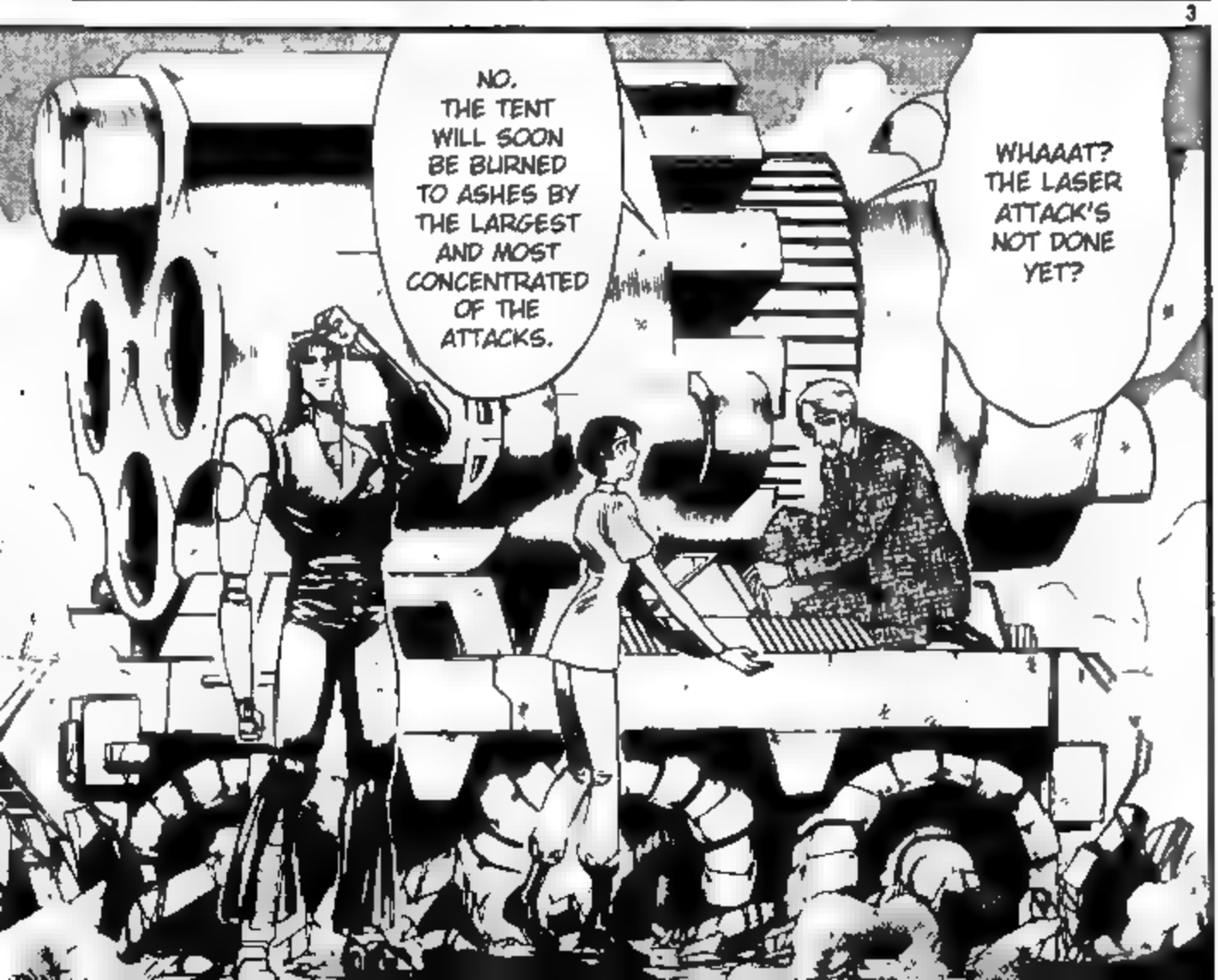
DID THEY... STOP?

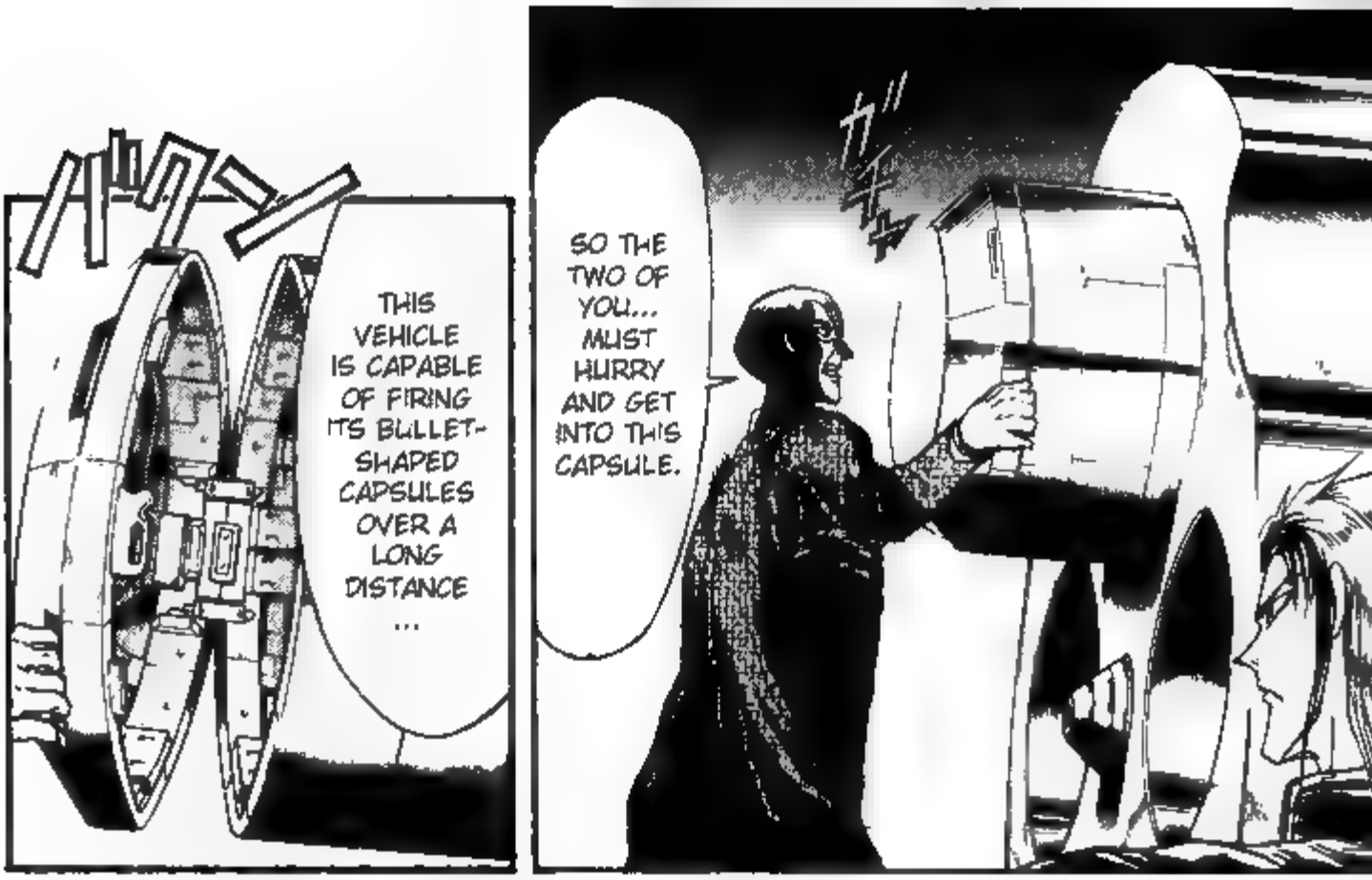


MOVING NOW INTO A COOLDOWN PERIOD AS WE RECHARGE.
TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE LASER SWEEP
FZZZT
OOOO


IN SIX MINUTES, ALL OPTICAL WEAPONRY WILL FIRE DIRECTLY UPON THAT FOCAL POINT.
THIS IS THE FINAL ANGLE ADJUSTMENT, AIMED DIRECTLY AT THE TARGET...
THAT TARGET BEING THE VERY CENTER OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS'S TENT.
PREPARE ALL BEAMS!

3


NO. THE TENT WILL SOON BE BURNED TO ASHES BY THE LARGEST AND MOST CONCENTRATED OF THE ATTACKS.
WHAAAT? THE LASER ATTACK'S NOT DONE YET?


THIS VEHICLE IS CAPABLE OF FIRING ITS BULLET-SHAPED CAPSULES OVER A LONG DISTANCE ...
SO THE TWO OF YOU... MUST HURRY AND GET INTO THIS CAPSULE.

ROCK-ENFIELD ...
HEY, UM ...
HURRY... I'LL TAKE CARE OF PROGRAMMING THE LAUNCH.

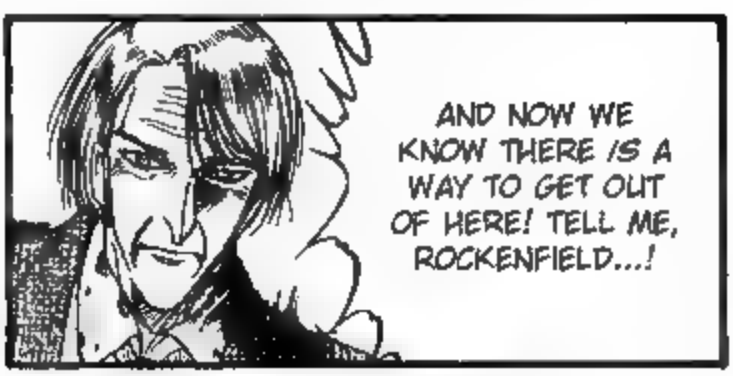
MING-XIA, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

DO YOU SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GONNA AGREE TO THAT?!

THEY HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE TOO, DON'T THEY?!
AND THEN THAT SHIROGANE-O, AND THAT GUY WHO LOOKS LIKE A YAKUZA!
I'M GOING TO GO GET FATIMA!

BUT I KNEW I WAS GOING TO DIE TOO. AND I DIDN'T FEEL SCARED OR LONELY, BECAUSE I KNEW LUCILLE AND THE OTHERS WOULD BE RIGHT THERE WAITING FOR ME..!

IT WAS SO HARD WATCHING EVERYBODY DIE... IT HURT SO MUCH...!
MING-XIA...


AND NOW WE KNOW THERE IS A WAY TO GET OUT OF HERE! TELL ME, ROCKENFIELD...!

WHY SHOULD THE TWO OF US BE THE ONLY ONES TO LIVE?!

NOT TOR, NOT DAHL, NOT ANY OF THEM!
BUT IF THERE'S A WAY TO ESCAPE, THEN THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE DIED AFTER ALL!

FATIMA'S GONE.
WHAT S IT ?!

MING-HAI, YOU HAVE TO TALK WITH FATIMA! YOU OWE HER SO MUCH!

SO...
FATIMA... IS PAST SAVING.

WHA ..

WHAT ARE YOU ...
MING-HAI, WHAT ...

BIG SIS.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE THE FIRST ONE IN THE CAPSULE ...

I...
DON'T WANT YOU TO DIE, ON TOP OF EVERYONE ELSE.
SORRY ...
NOW...
.....

I DON'T... HAVE MUCH LONGER. IT WOULD BE POINTLESS FOR ME TO ESCAPE...
NO... IT MUST BE YOU ...
YOU GET IN NEXT, ROCK-ENFIELD. PLEASE ...
RICHIE, MY YOUNGER SON, IS GOING TO BE IN A SCHOOL PLAY SOON
NO, IT WOUL-DN'T!
YOU HAVE A PROMISE TO KEEP!
NO... I DO NOT .
.....
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS RICHIE'S PLAY, DO YOU?!

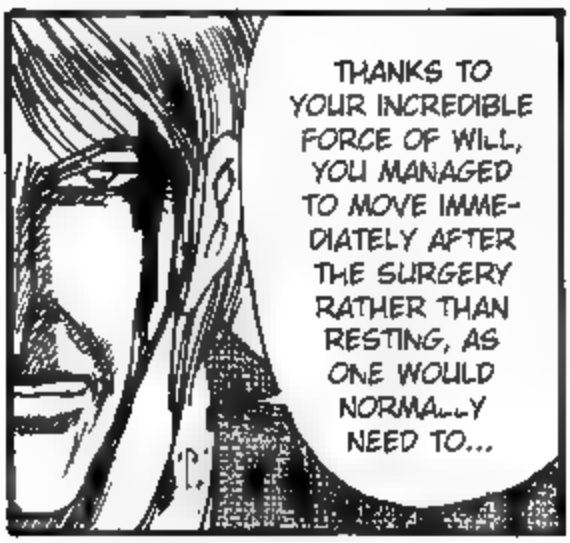
LET GO OF ME, NARUMI!
SO GET IN!
ALL OF IT! OUR ENTIRE FIGHT!
THIS WAS ALL POINTLESS, ROCKEN-FIELD!
SO... SO YOU AT LEAST HAVE TO ...
AFTER EVERYBODY DIED SO I COULD DO IT...!
THE FRANCINE THAT I DESTROYED WAS A FAKE.
I AM A DOLL BUILT BY LADY FRANCINE.

GET BACK TO YOUR KIDS ...

YOUR NERVES HAVE... FINALLY GIVEN OUT...
WH-WHY IS THIS ...

MY BODY ...
SFX: CREAKING

I... CAN'T MOVE ...
WHA- ...?!


THANKS TO YOUR INCREDIBLE FORCE OF WILL, YOU MANAGED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SURGERY RATHER THAN RESTING, AS ONE WOULD NORMALLY NEED TO...

WH-...
THOSE LIMBS ARE VERY PRECISE PIECES OF MACHINERY. THEY WERE CONNECTED TO YOUR NERVES DURING THAT COMPLICATED SURGERY ...

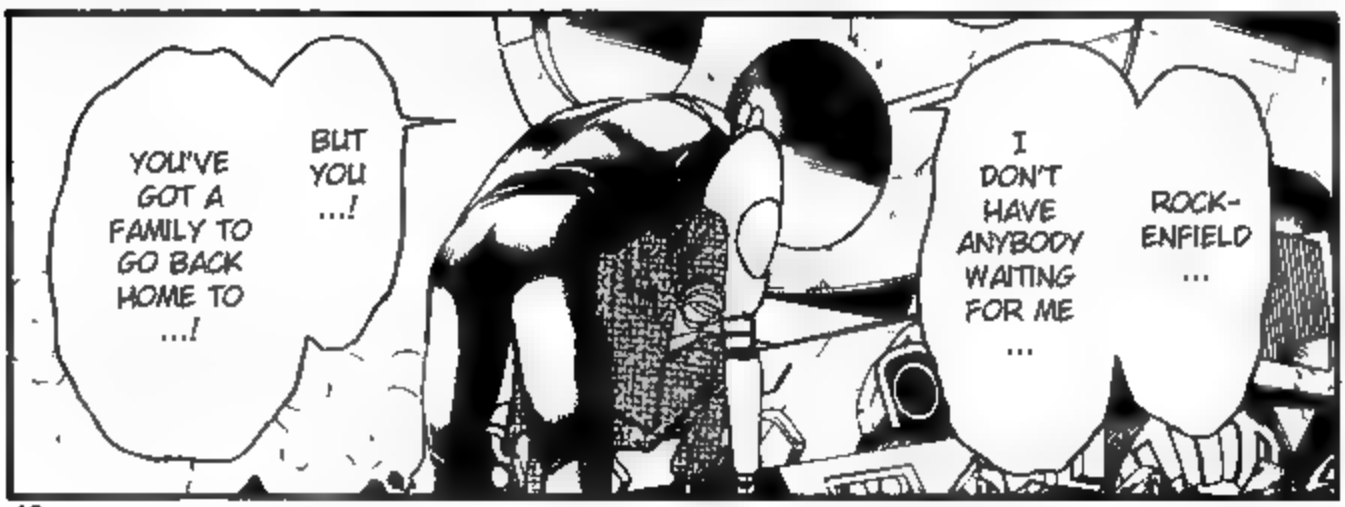
DON'T WORRY. YOU WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AGAIN ONCE YOU REST.
BUT NOT FOR THE MOMENT.

BY THIS POINT ...
THE BODY PARTS THAT YOU FORCED TO MOVE FAR PAST THEIR LIMIT MUST BE UTTERLY EXHAUSTED.

NO! ROCKENFIELD, DON'T DO THIS!! YOU CAN'T!

I SUPPOSE YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LISTEN TO ME.
AND SO...

THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF TIME ...
WHEN I DON'T NEED TO GIVE A REASON. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
I... DO NOT WANT YOU TO DIE.
WHY? WHY WON'T YOU GET OUT OF HERE YOURSELF ?!


YOU'VE GOT A FAMILY TO GO BACK HOME TO ...!
BUT YOU ...!
I DON'T HAVE ANYBODY WAITING FOR ME ...
ROCK-ENFIELD ...

PLEASE ...
PLEASE GO TO SEE RICHIE'S PLAY...!!

MY DEAR CHILDREN, YOU MEAN ...
SEE ...
.....

...?

IT IS UP TO YOU TO CHOOSE WHAT YOUR LIFE WILL BE LIKE AFTER THIS.
NARUMI... YOUR FIGHT IS OVER.

13

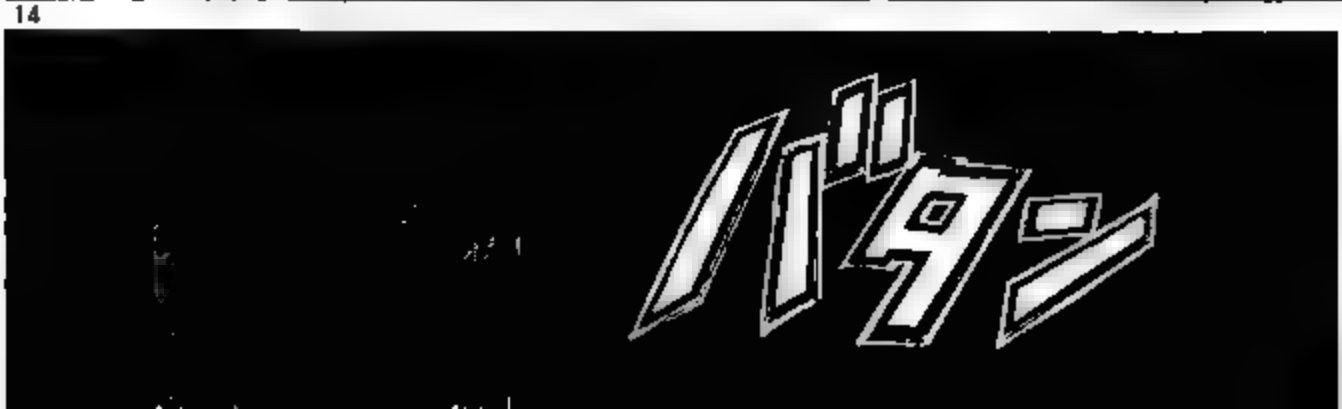
ROCK-ENFIELD ...?

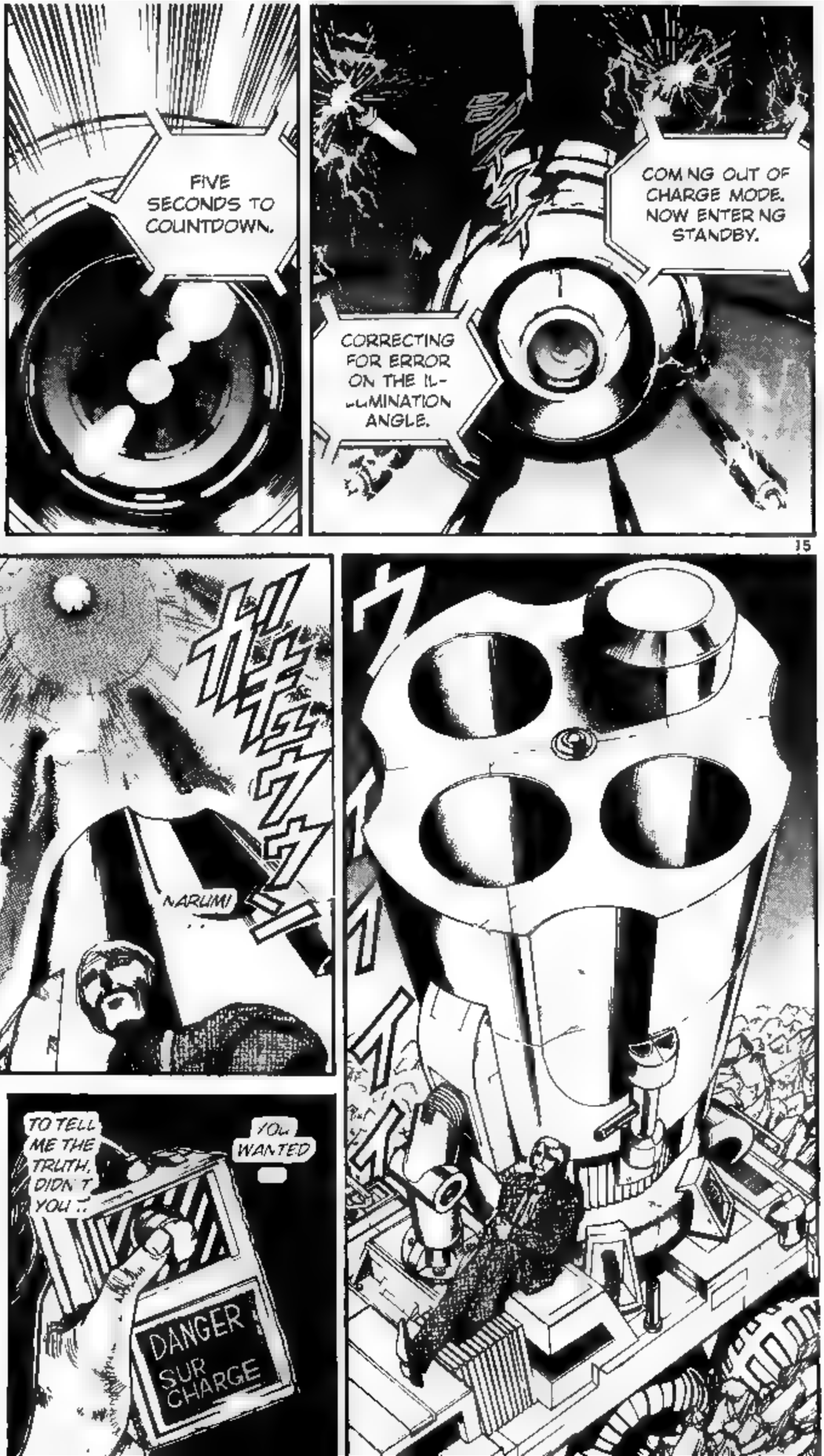
LIVE FREELY.
THERE IS NO MORE REASON FOR YOU TO FEEL BEHOLDEN TO THIS FIGHT. NONE AT ALL.

YOU ARE FREE NOW.

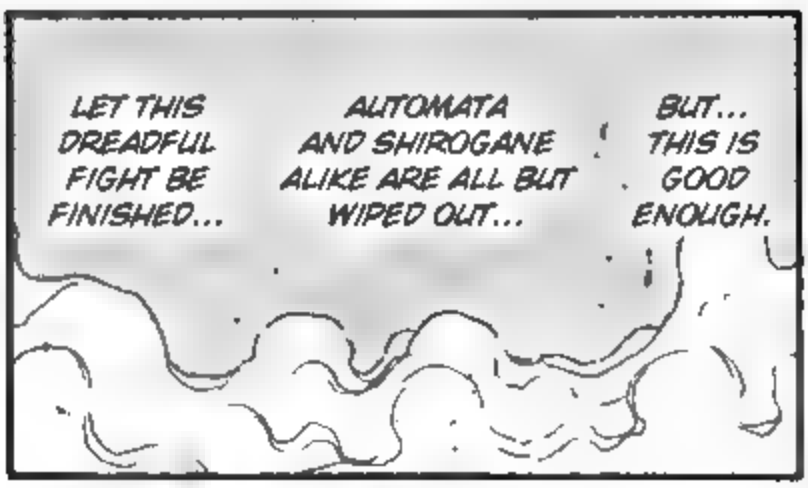
THEY ARE ...
TWO WONDERFUL, ENERGETIC BOYS.

IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, WOULD YOU MIND LOOKING UP RICHIE AND AL IN OXFORD ...?
ROCKEN-FIELD...! THAT DOLL I DES-TROYED WAS... IT WAS ...!


バリーン
SFX: THUNK


FIVE SECONDS TO COUNTDOWN.
COMING OUT OF CHARGE MODE. NOW ENTERING STANDBY.
CORRECTING FOR ERROR ON THE ILLUMINATION ANGLE.
15
NARUMI
TO TELL ME THE TRUTH, DIDN'T YOU ..
YOU WANTED
DANGER SUR CHARGE

THE MOMENT I SAW YOUR FACE, I KNEW...
I LIED WHEN I SAID THAT MY EYE-SIGHT WAS FADING.
THERE IS NO NEED.


LET THIS DREADFUL FIGHT BE FINISHED...
AUTOMATA AND SHIROGANE ALIKE ARE ALL BUT WIPED OUT...
BUT... THIS IS GOOD ENOUGH.

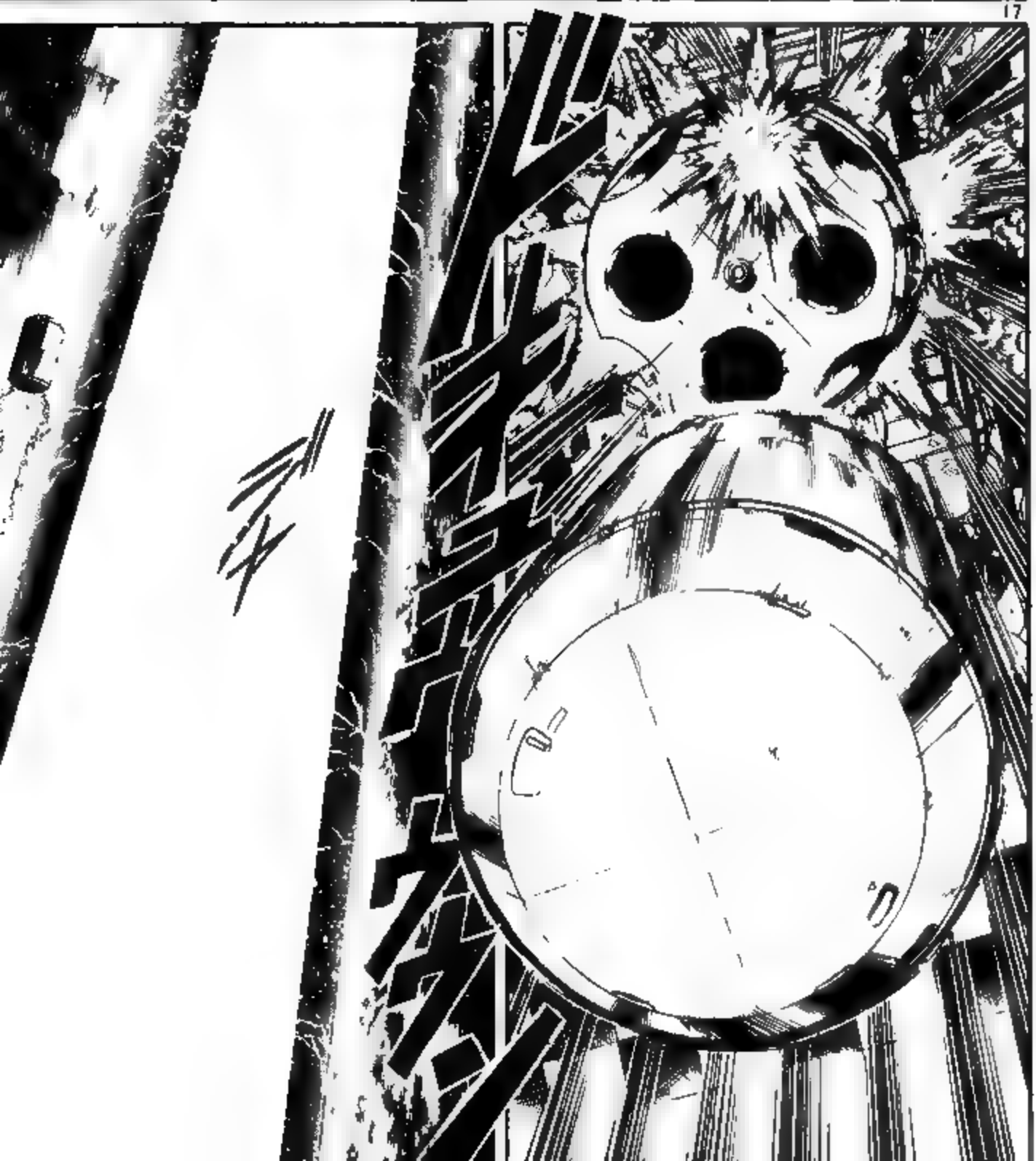
HAD NOT BEEN DESTROYED
I KNEW THAT THE REAL DOLL FRANCINE

FIRE ALL LASERS!
YOU, THE SOLE SURVIVOR, CANNOT, SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY FOR ALL OF THIS ALONE.

A STARRY SKY...

I WANT TO LEAVE YOU BURDENED WITH NOTHING
SO I WILL REMAIN ARROGANT.

THE SHIROGANE'S FINAL SHOT, FIRED UP INTO THE STARRY SKY...
SUCH A ROMANTIC NOTION ...
DAD MUST BE A POET AT HEART... MARY... AL... RICHIE.
カチ
!



18

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

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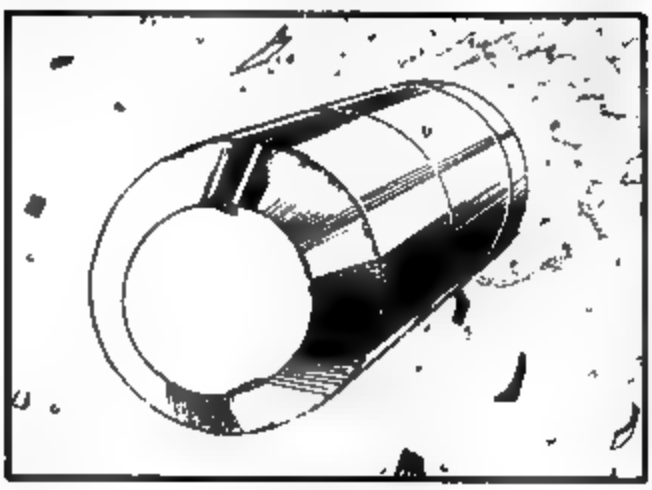
Act 53 The Curtain Falls For a Moment

WAS STRUCK BY AN ULTRA-HIGH TEMPERATURE LASER 28 METERS IN WIDTH.

38 MINUTES AFTER MIDNIGHT, THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE MIDNIGHT CIRCUS'S TENT ...



ERADICATING EVERYTHING IN ITS PATH UP TO A DEPTH OF 300 METERS.

AN ENERGY PILLAR OF MORE THAN 10,000 DEGREES PENETRATED THE TENT AND DEEP INTO THE EARTH BELOW ...

IN THE DEPTHS OF THE TENT...

BEFORE THAT HAPPENED ...

SIX MINUTES ...

第53幕 二時閉幕

NOT WILD ABOUT THAT TONE, THERE...
I AIN'T ABOUT TO GET MYSELF KILLED BY THE LIKES'A YOU.

THE HUMAN'S ACTUALLY STRONG!

WE HAVE WON AS LONG AS THE TRAIN IS IMMOBILE WHEN THE FINAL ATTACK COMES.
YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH, ASHI-HANA.

ギュッ

ON THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN, THE TRAIN BOARDED BY A GREAT NUMBER OF AUTOMATA IN THEIR BID FOR ESCAPE...

ガヤ
NEAR THE DRIVER'S CABIN ...

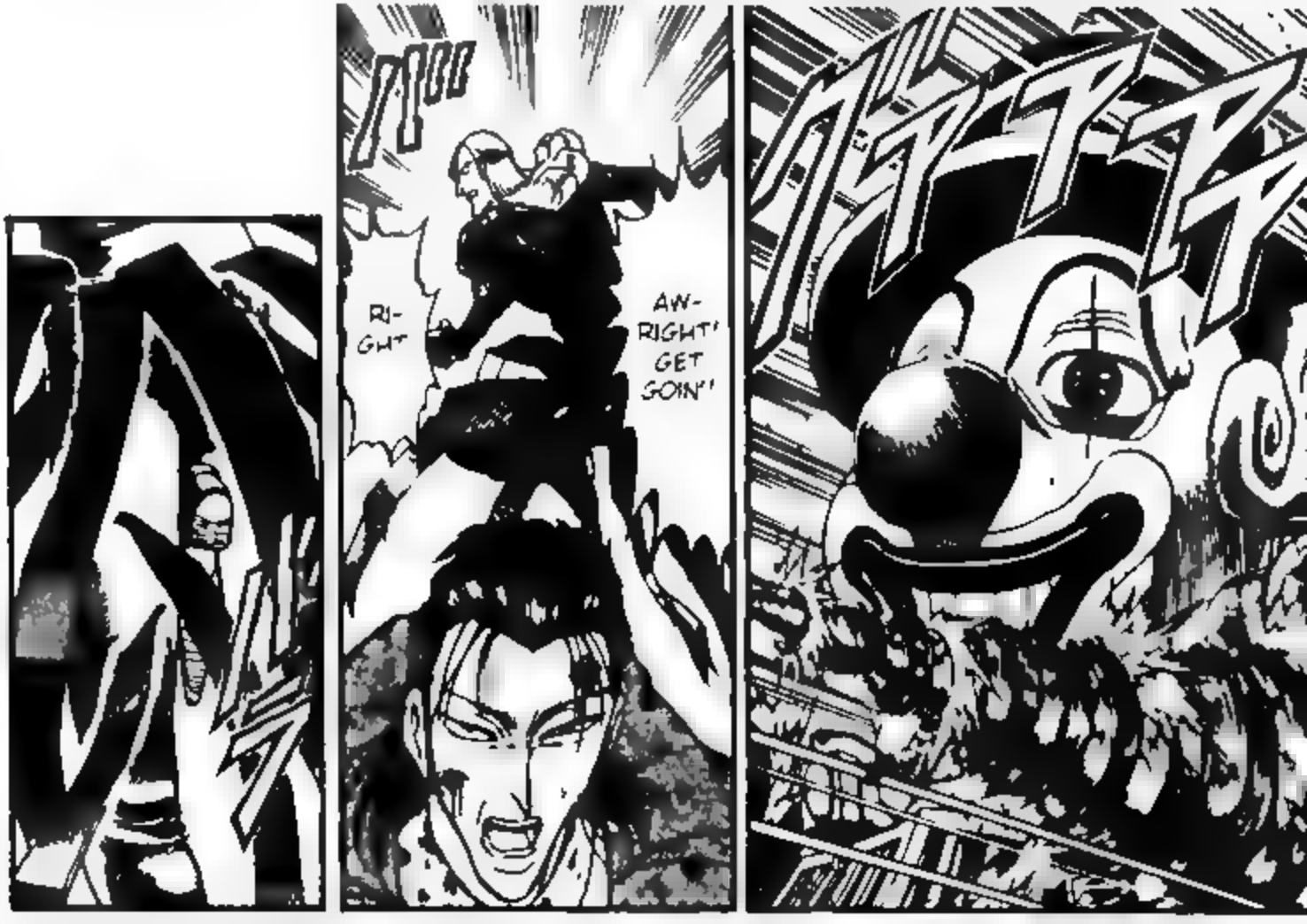
WHAT ?!
DUMB-ASS!
OH, REAAALLY? SO IF WE CAN'T ESCAPE, THEN YOU WIN?
SFX: HAHAHAHA!
SFX: WHISTLE
SFX: ZOOM
THIS... CAN'T BE HAPPEN-ING...!
WHA-HO THERE!
WE ARE THE ONES IN CONTROL OF THE DRIVER'S CABIN...!

HYAHAHAHA! WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT?! THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN...
IT'S ONE OF US AUTO-MATA! DUH!
CAN LAUNCH ITSELF WHEN-EVER IT WANTS!

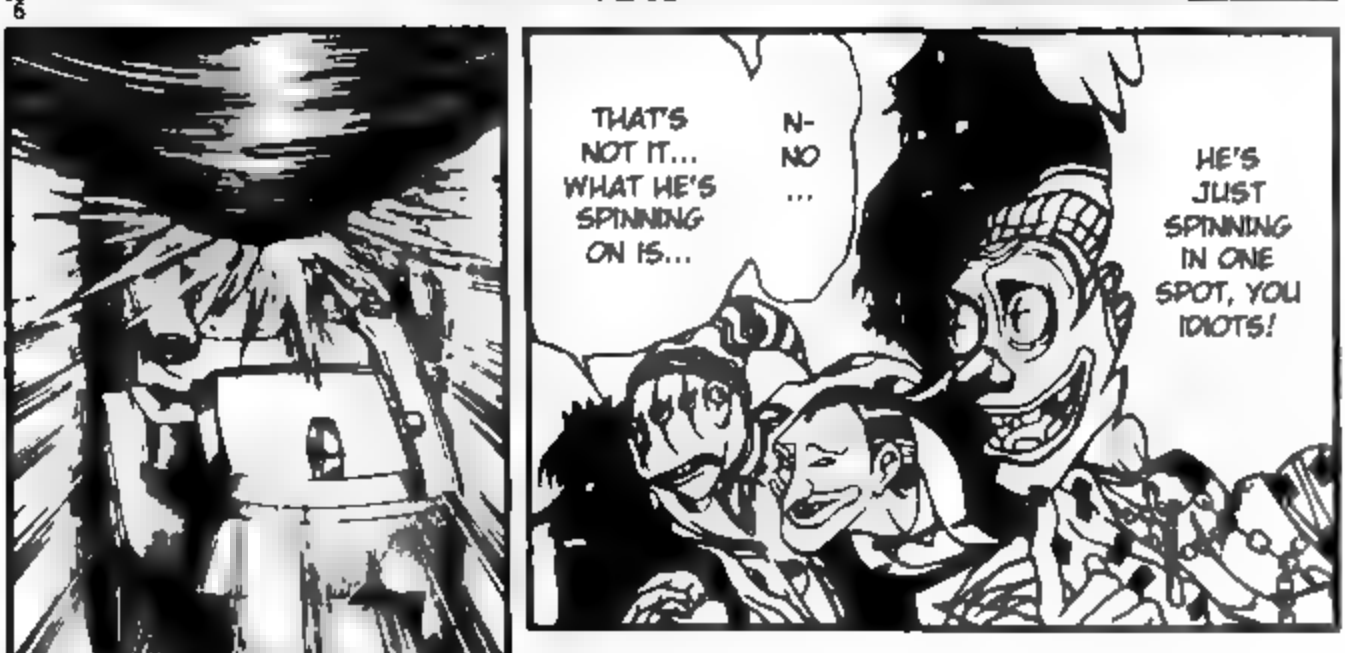
AND THEN WE'LL BE OFF TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND THE ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT HUMAN BLOODBATH ...!
YOU'RE HITCHIN' A RIDE WITHOUT A TICKET, HU-MANS! GUESS WE BETTER KILL YA AND TOSS YA OFF.

.....
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO?!
GRR... SO UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING, THE DOLLS WILL END UP GETTING AWAY...

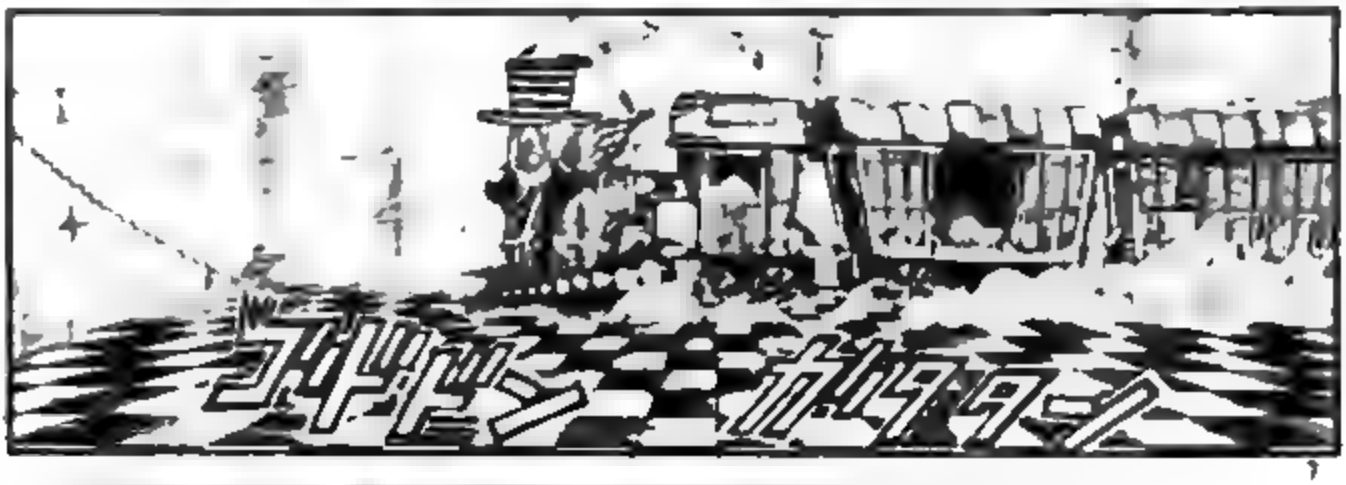
I'VE GOT ..
AN IDEA.


RI-
GHT
AW-
RIGHT!
GET
GOIN'

WHAT
?!


THAT'S
NOT IT...
WHAT HE'S
SPINNING
ON IS...
N-
NO
...
HE'S
JUST
SPINNING
IN ONE
SPOT, YOU
IDIOTS!

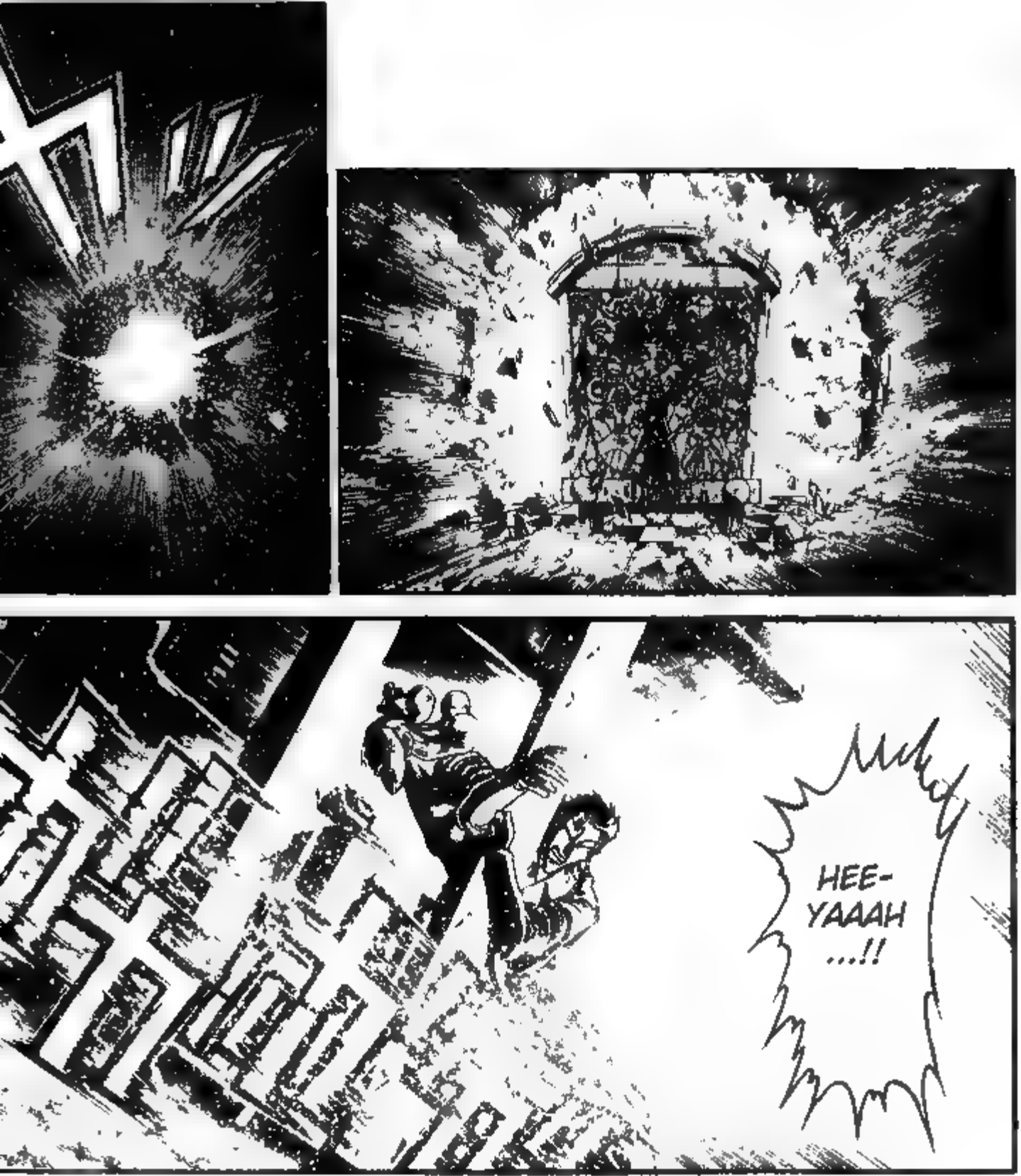
THE COUP-LEEERR !!


ゴトゴトン ガタタン

WE'VE GOTTA STOP HIM...!

TOO SLOW!
GIVE IT ALL YA GOT, GEORGE-SAN!
OO-OO-OH ...!!
NO! WAIT!

SFX
KCHAK



ALL SFX: RUMBLING

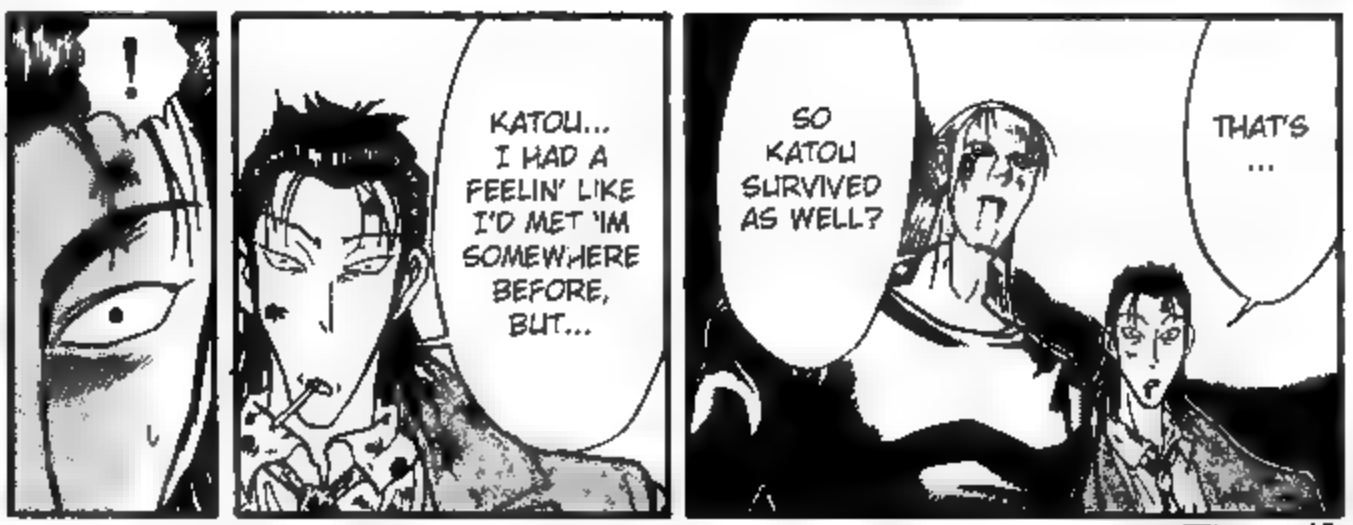
!
HEY, GEOR-...?
SO WE ACTUALLY MADE IT OUTTA THERE?
PLEAH! BLEAGH... UNBELIE-VABLE.
THANK YOU FOR RIDING, PASSENGERS. PLEASE NOTIFY ME WHEN YOUR NEXT DESTI-NATION HAS BEEN DETER-MINED.
ASHI-HANA! JUMP!
W-WE'RE OUT!
13
12

JEEZ, WHAT IN THE HELL KINDA WAR *WAS* THIS...? WORDS FAIL ME.
THAT MISSION'A YERS IS DONE NOW AND ALL ...
...SO, ARE YA SATISFIED NOW, BUDDY?
オオオ
A MASS OF ULTRA-HIGH TEMPERATURE LASER BEAMS LAUNCHED FROM SATELLITE ORBIT. THERE IS NO WAY FOR THE ALITOMATA TO ESCAPE IT.
THAT THE FINAL ATTACK ...?

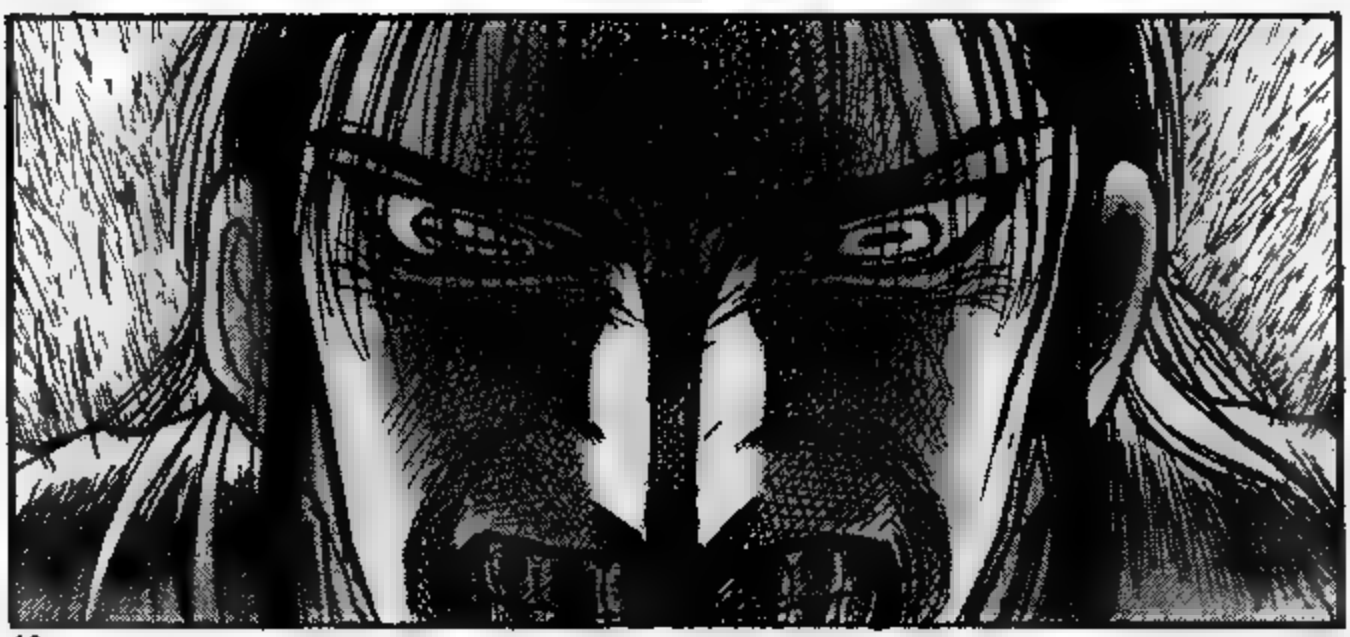
オオオ
... THAT'S ALL...
SOME PEOPLE WHO WERE SICKENED HAVE HAD THEIR REVENGE NOW ON THOSE WHO SPREAD THE DISEASE.
IT WAS NOTHING MUCH.

IT WAS A SENSE-LESS FIGHT... NOTHIN' BUT A BUNCHA HOT AIR.
TO PUT IT AS YOU MIGHT, ASHIHANA... WHEN ALL'S SAID AND DONE...

オオオオ


!
KATOU... I HAD A FEELIN' LIKE I'D MET 'IM SOMEWHERE BEFORE, BUT...
SO KATOU SURVIVED AS WELL?
THAT'S ...

S'POSED T'BE DEAD?
AIN'T THAT GUY



16

IN THIS BATTLE, BOTH SIDES VANISHED FROM THE EARTH.

AT 12:52, THE FINAL MATCH CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE DOLL-DESTROYING SHIROGANE AND THE ALITOMATA.

からくりサーカス
Le Cirque de Karakuri

Karakuri~Final Act
The Curtain Falls for a Moment

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

After reconsidering the extended metaphor of the chapter titles, I'm going to be translating 一時閉幕 from now on as *The Curtain Falls for a Moment* rather than *Temporary Closing* as it's been previously

This is the point where the official French releases of Karakuri Circus ended, so as of next chapter we are in new territory for translations in the Western world

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Intermission I ~
The People of the Nakamachi Circus

I BID YOU WELCOME TO THIS STRANGE CIRCUS, WITH TS GEARS TURNED BY FATE AND TS SPRINGS WORKED BY PASSIONS
YOU WHO SIT IN ATTENDANCE ON KARAKURI CIRCUS...

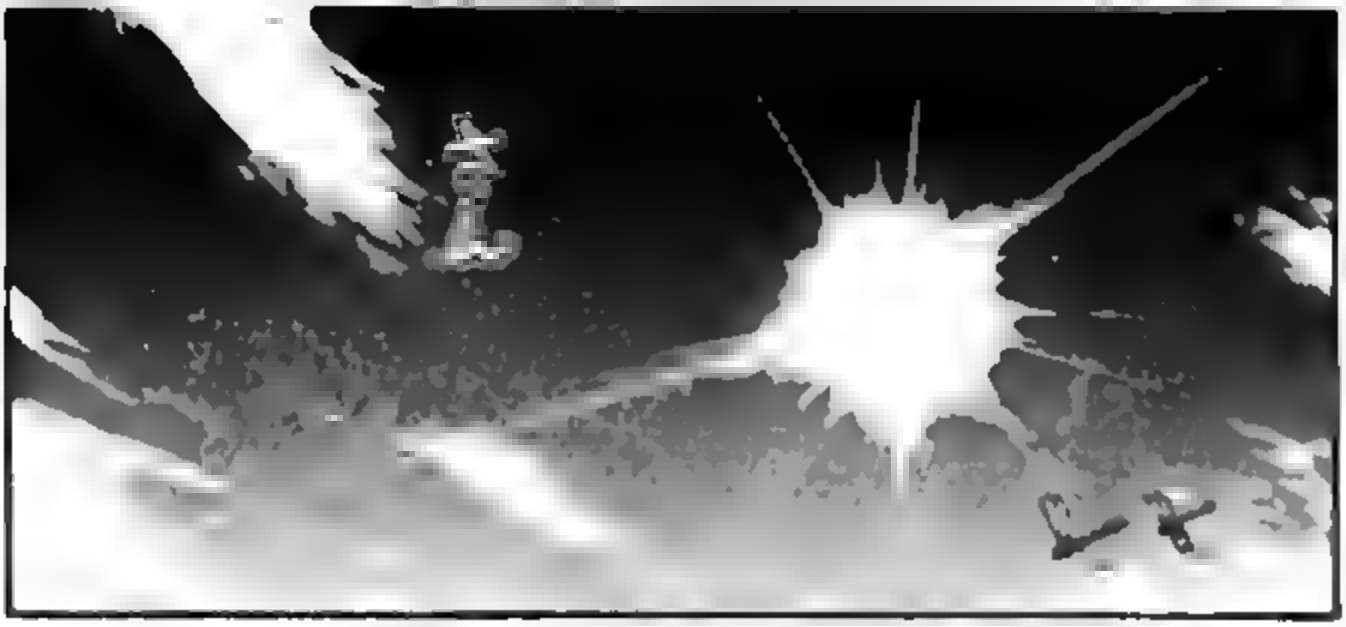
1

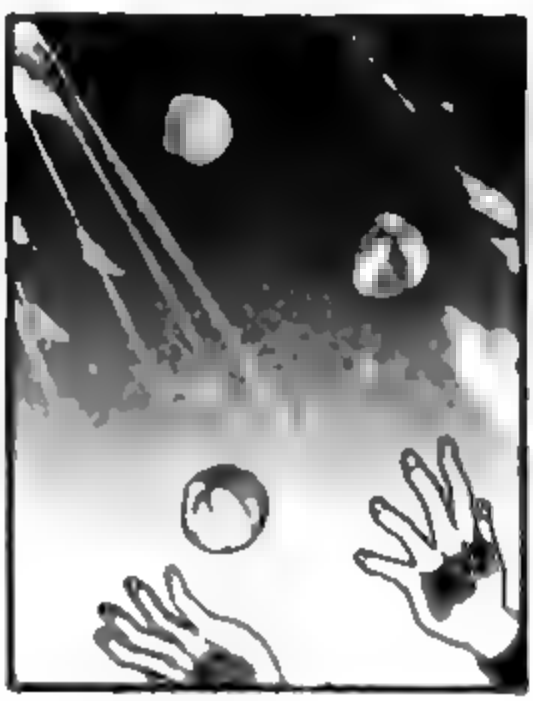
SHIROGANE.
168 CENTI-METERS TALL. HER REAL NAME IS ELEONORE. SHE DESTROYS AUTOMATA. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER BIRTH ARE UNKNOWN.
SHE HAS MADE IT HER MISSION TO PROTECT MASARU.

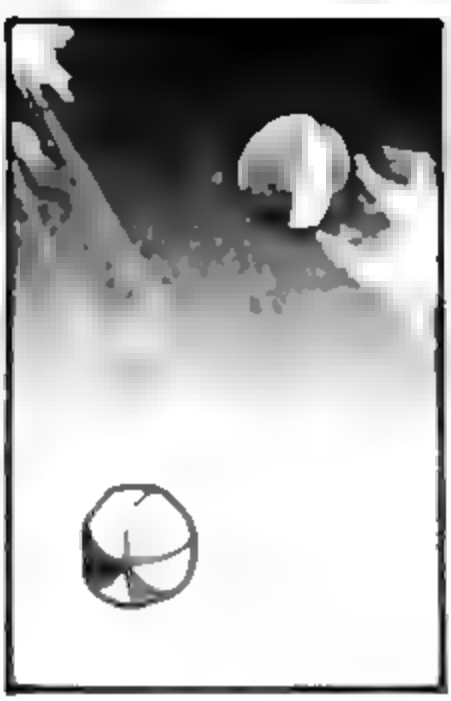
PERMIT ME NOW TO INTRODUCE THE MAIN PLAYERS IN THIS SHOW.
SAIGA MASARU.
11 YEARS OLD AND 138 CENTIMETERS TALL, HE IS IN HIS 5TH YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL.
HIS LIFE IS IN DANGER DUE TO THE VAST FORTUNE THAT HE INHERI-TED.

幕間Ⅰ～

仲町サーカスの人々







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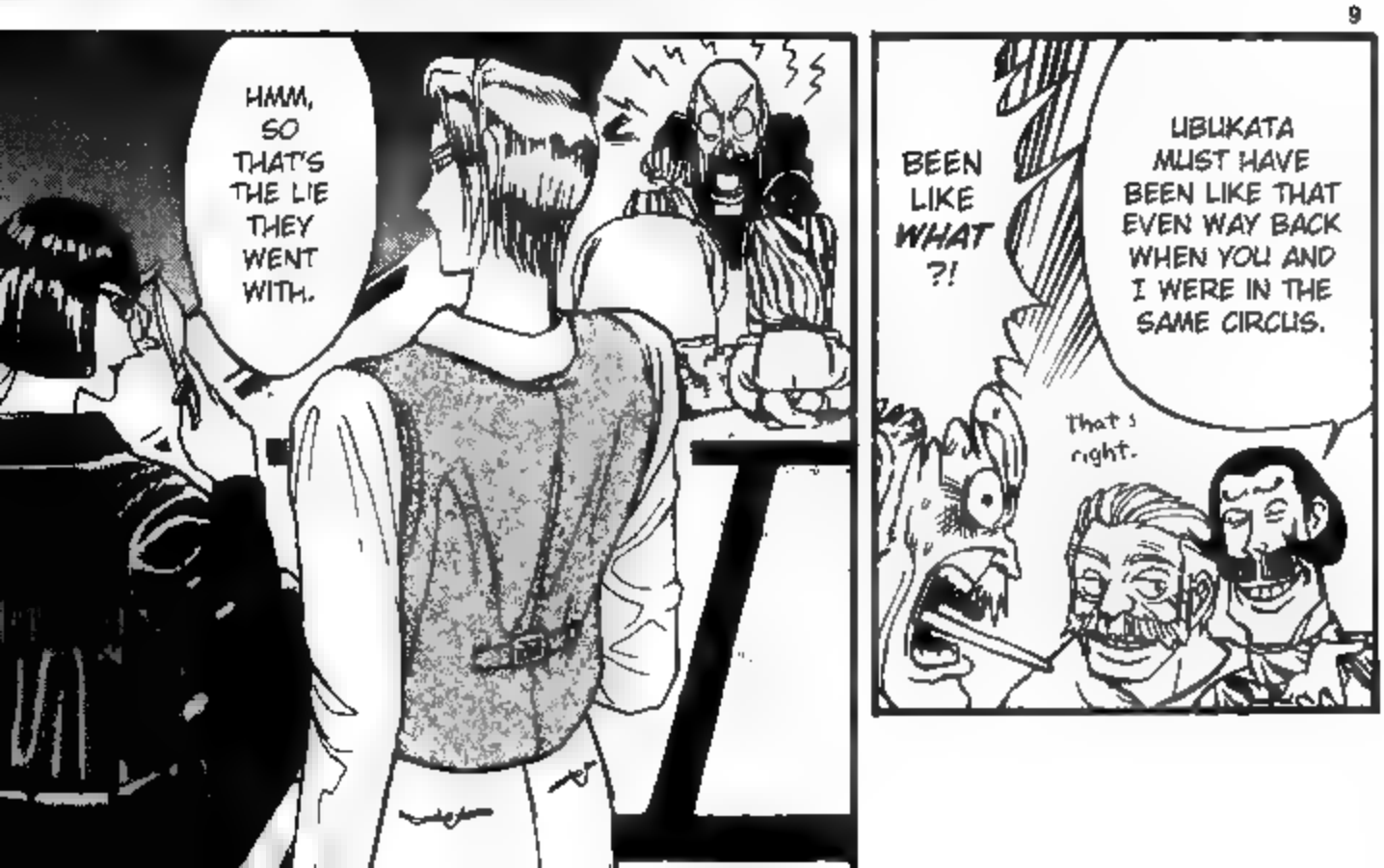
7

IT'S BECAUSE SHIRO-GANE'S BEEN HELPING ME OUT EVERY DAY.
I'M REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT!
YEAH!
おお!
YOU'VE GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD WITH THOSE JUGGLING BALLS, HUH?
AWE-SOME, MASARU!

HANG ON, SHIRO-GANE!
AND DRINK THIS MINE-RAL WATER TO REPLACE THE MOISTURE YOU'VE LOST.
NOW, WIPE OFF THAT SWEAT BEFORE YOU CATCH COLD.
YOU'VE BECOME SO SKILLED, YOUNG MASTER!
I can do this myself!
SERIOUSLY, IT'S LIKE MASARU TAKES UP ALL HER TIME... I'M SO JEALOUS ...!
SHIRO-GANE ALWAYS GETS SO OVER-PROTECTIVE WITH MASARU ...
OH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW, NAOTA? MASARU'S FAMILY USED TO LIVE IN FRANCE, AND THEY WERE SUPER RICH.
She ain't your anything, buster.
...SER-IOUSLY, HOW COME THAT BRAT GETS TO HOG ALL OF MY SHIROGANE'S AFFECTION ?!

SHIROGANE'S THE DAUGHTER OF THE WET NURSE WHO LOOKED AFTER MASARU BACK THEN. AND BECAUSE SHE STILL OWES THEM A DEBT OF GRATITUDE FROM BACK THEN, SHE STUCK WITH HIS FAMILY EVEN AFTER THEY LOST ALL THEIR MONEY.
HUH ?!
SHE NEVER SAID A WORD ABOUT ANY OF THAT WHEN WE WERE IN THE SAME CIRCUS.
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU ARE *NOTHING* TO HER!
AFTER MASARU LOST BOTH HIS PARENTS, THE RELATIVE WHO TOOK CUSTODY OF HIM WAS A HORRIBLE, VIOLENT GUY, SO THE TWO OF THEM DECIDED...
TO LIVE WITH EACH OTHER SOME-PLACE ELSE.
FID-DLE-FAD-DLE!
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOUNG FOLK THESE DAYS! THEY HAVE NO STICK-TO-ITIVE-NESS!
OH, HERE WE GO. THE OLD YELLER'S YELLIN' AGAIN.


UBUKATA MUST HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT EVEN WAY BACK WHEN YOU AND I WERE IN THE SAME CIRCUS.
That's right.
BEEN LIKE *WHAT* ?!
HMM, SO THAT'S THE LIE THEY WENT WITH.

MM, WELL ...
THEN AGAIN, IT SEEMS LIKE SHIROGANE TRUSTS YOU. YOU MUST BE WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH MASARU'S REAL STORY.
IT WAS A PRIVATE MATTER... MYSTERIOUS HANDSOME FRENCH GUY.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY, LOVELY LADY KNIFE-THROWER ...?

YES... MASARU-SAN WAS NAMED THE SOLE HEIR TO A VAST FORTUNE, AND HIS OLDER HALF-SIBLINGS RESENTED HIM FOR IT.
REALLY? SO YOU KNOW IT TOO, LITTLE KITTEN TAMER?

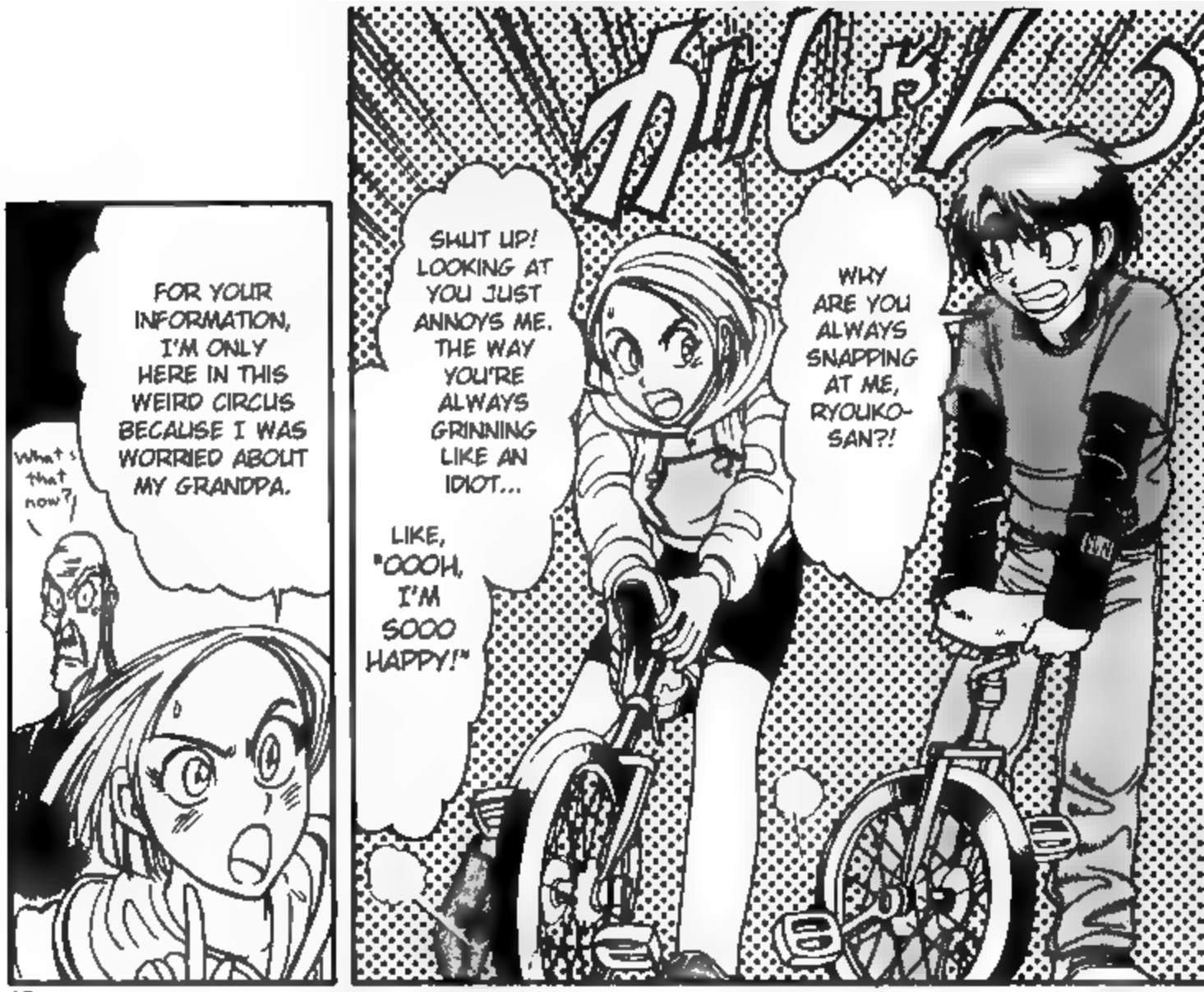
OH! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
ERR... I KNOW IT AS WELL, ACTUALLY ...

10

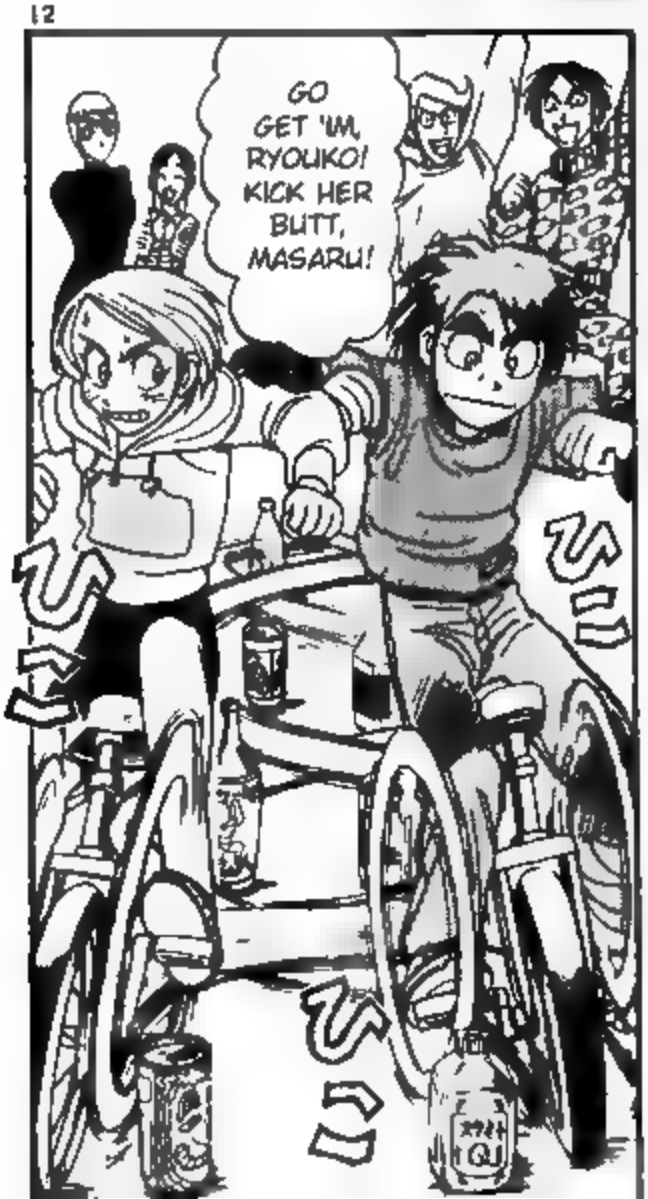
AND SO HE CAME TO THIS CIRCUS FLEEING THE ASSASSINS AFTER HIS LIFE, ALONG WITH SHIROGANE-SAN.

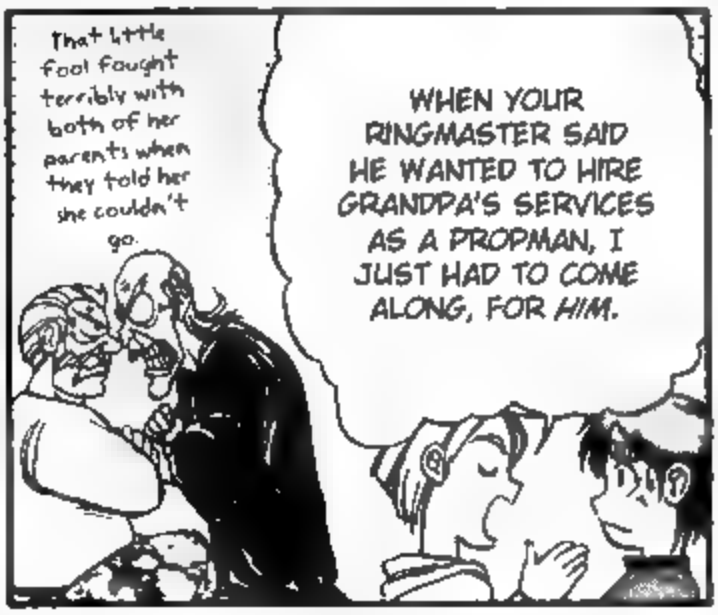
I SEE ...
I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF HE WERE HONEST WITH NAKAMACHI-SAN AND THE OTHERS, BUT PERHAPS IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS ...
I'D KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE, SINCE I WAS ONE OF THE ASSASSINS
WELL, THAT'S MORE OR LESS IT, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD.
Don't get so full of yourself!
Give me a break! I can do that too.
H-hate me ..!
Maiaru, a man! He'll get to hate you if you bug him over every little thing.
C'mon, Shirogane.

WELL... THAT'S A STORY THAT CAN WAIT FOR ANOTHER DAY.
I HAVE THE FEELING THERE'S MUCH MORE THERE THAN MEETS THE EYE...
I'M SURE YOU ALSO KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT SHIROGANE THAT WE DON'T.
AND YOU... GUY, WAS IT?

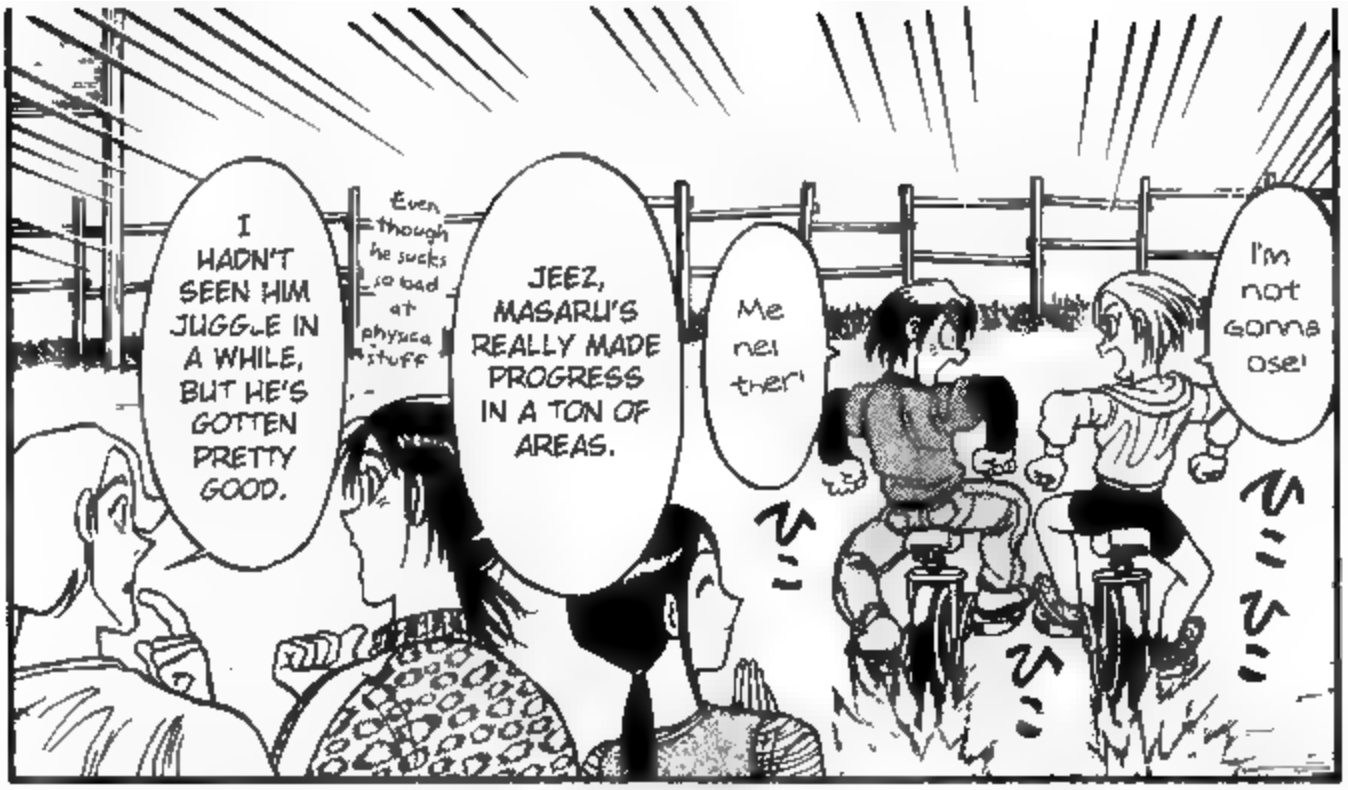

WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS SNAPPING AT ME, RYOUKO-SAN?!
SHUT UP! LOOKING AT YOU JUST ANNOYS ME. THE WAY YOU'RE ALWAYS GRINNING LIKE AN IDIOT...
LIKE, "OOOH, I'M SOOO HAPPY!"
FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I'M ONLY HERE IN THIS WEIRD CIRCUS BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT MY GRANDPA.
What's that now?

12


GO GET 'EM, RYOUKO! KICK HER BUTT, MASARU!


That little fool fought terribly with both of her parents when they told her she couldn't go.
WHEN YOUR RINGMASTER SAID HE WANTED TO HIRE GRANDPA'S SERVICES AS A PROPMAN, I JUST HAD TO COME ALONG, FOR HIM.

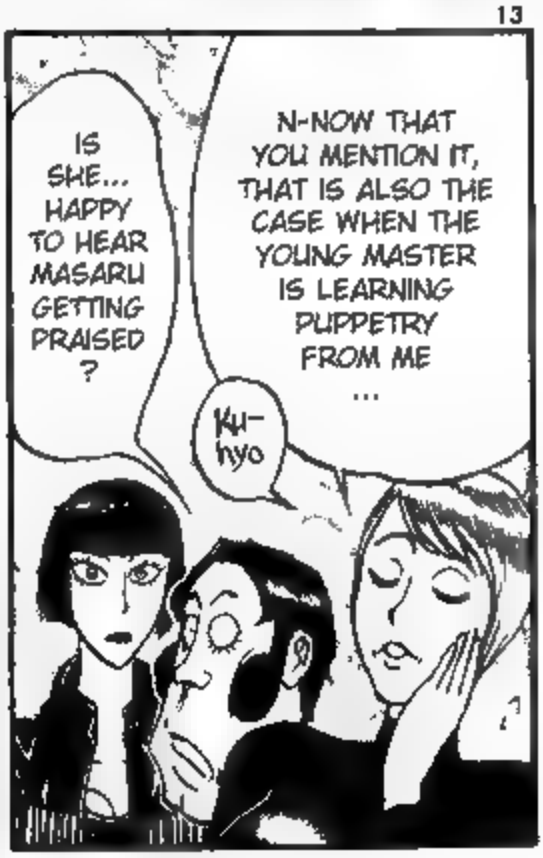
WELL THEN, QUIT COMPLAINING AND LET'S START THE UNICYCLE RACE!
I KNOW ALL THAT! I GET IT!

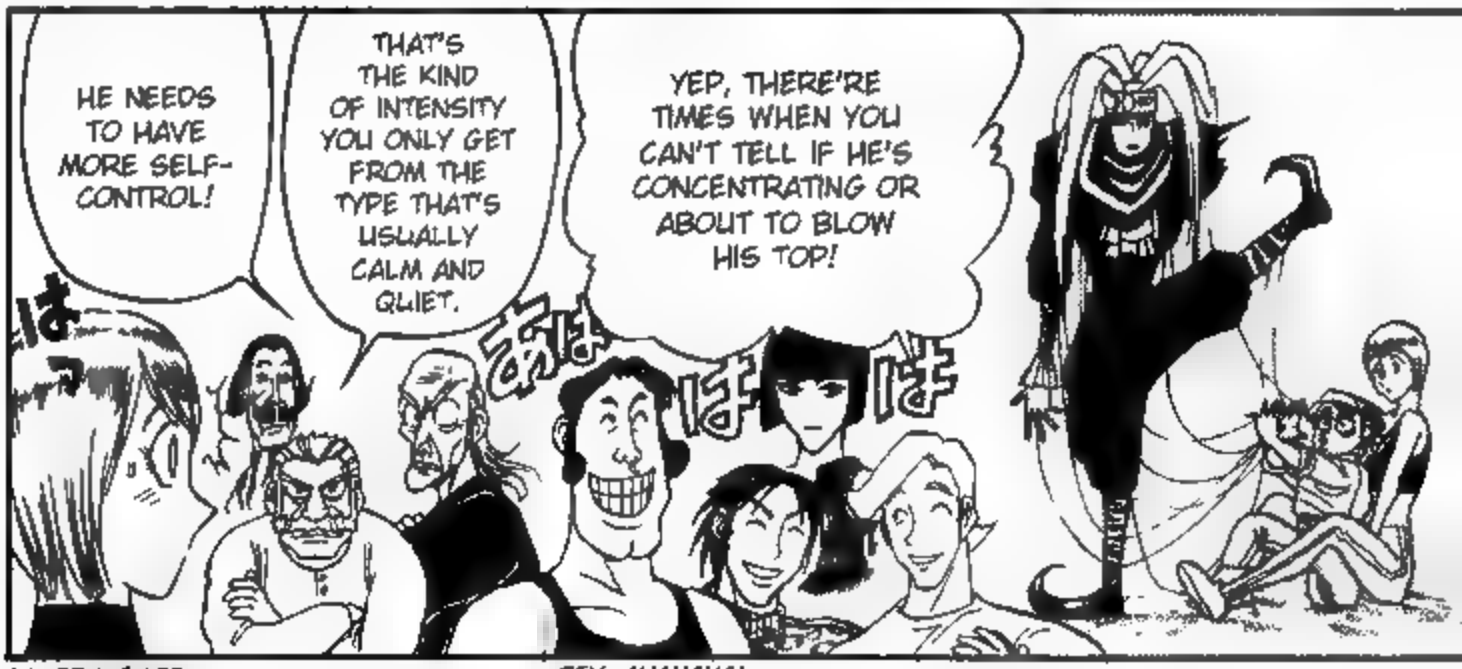

I HADN'T SEEN HIM JUGGLE IN A WHILE, BUT HE'S GOTTEN PRETTY GOOD.
Even though he sucks so bad at physical stuff
JEEZ, MASARU'S REALLY MADE PROGRESS IN A TON OF AREAS.
Me neither
I'm not gonna lose!
ひゅ ひゅ
ひゅ
ひゅ

Ku-hyo
SHIROGANE... DID YOU JUST MAKE A STRANGE SOUND IN THE BACK OF YOUR THROAT?

Ku-hyo
WHEN HE'S PRACTICING SOMETHING, IT'S LIKE HE CAN'T EVEN HEAR ANYTHING ELSE.
THAT BOY'S GOT SOME IMPRESSIVE POWERS OF CONCENTRATION.

GOT IT
THAT'S RIGHT, YOUNG MASTER. MOVE YOUR FINGERS AS IF YOU WERE TRACING THE MOUTH OF A BOTTLE ...
USING THE STRENGTH FROM YOUR SHOULDERS...


IS SHE... HAPPY TO HEAR MASARU GETTING PRAISED?
N-NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, THAT IS ALSO THE CASE WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER IS LEARNING PUPPETRY FROM ME ...
Ku-hyo


HE NEEDS TO HAVE MORE SELF-CONTROL!
THAT'S THE KIND OF INTENSITY YOU ONLY GET FROM THE TYPE THAT'S USUALLY CALM AND QUIET.
YEP, THERE'RE TIMES WHEN YOU CAN'T TELL IF HE'S CONCENTRATING OR ABOUT TO BLOW HIS TOP!

14 SFX GASP

SFX. AHAHAHA!

PLEASE DO NOT BE SO RECKLESS, YOUNG MASTER! I CANNOT BEAR SEEING YOU INJURED ...!

OKAY, HIRO-SAN!
SHOW ME HOW YOU DO ON THE CORDE LISSE NOW, MASARU.
BUT, RING-MASTER ...!
IT'S NATURAL FOR HIM TO GET A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY WHEN HE'S FINALLY MASTERED SOMETHING.
COME ON NOW, SHIRO-GANE. MASA-RU'S A MAN.

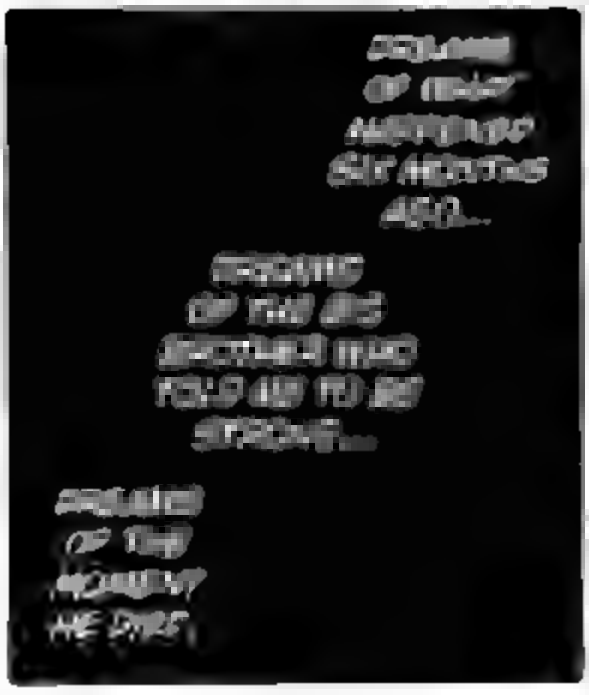
I THINK THAT THE YOUNG MAS-TER MUST BE MORE AT PEACE NOW THAN HE HAS EVER BEEN BEFORE ...

I-I'M NOT TOO GOOD AT THAT YET...
YOU SURE GOT PLENTY OF ENERGY THERE, KID! SHOW ME SOME BALANCING TOO, THEN!

NO, SHIROGANE, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE...

AAHHH!!

An
Ah


DREAMS OF THAT MORNING SIX MONTHS AGO...
MEMORIES OF THAT BIG BROTHER WHO FOLD ME TO BE STRONG...
AND LATER OF THAT MOMENT HE DIED.

EVEN NOW I REALLY AWAKE EVERY NIGHT FROM TERRIBLE DREAMS.

IT'S MY FAULT THAT YOU DIED.
I'M SORRY, NARUMI-NIICHAN.

I DON'T KNOW WHY. EVEN THOUGH THAT'S THE REASON YOU DIED, BECAUSE I WAS IN DANGER OVER THAT ...
WHY DIDN'T MY FATHER HAND HIS MONEY OVER TO HIS LEGITIMATE CHILDREN? WHY DID HE LEAVE 18 BILLION YEN TO ME, THE SON OF HIS MISTRESS?
BUT... I STILL DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND.

I HAVE TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!
I CAN'T JUST GO ON LIKE THIS.
SHIRO-GANE, I'VE MADE UP MY MIND ABOUT SOMETHING. AND I'M SERIOUS ABOUT IT.

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

The original spread on pages 2-3 gives Liese's age incorrectly as 11
I've fixed this for the scanlation

Guy-Christophe Rêch and Éléonore were the names used by the official French release, but as of this chapter I'll be switching to Guy Christophe Rech and Eleonore to match the romanizations given in the guidebook. (Éléonore, Eléonore, and Eleonore are all valid versions of the same name, Rech/Rêch/Reche/Rêche is much harder to track down.)

I made an error (now fixed) on page 13 of chapter 206, the insects that the fake Doll Francine is referring to are the ones that are already inside the Zonapha patients' bodies causing the symptoms. With the destruction of the Midnight Circus, there are currently no insects *spreading* the disease to new people

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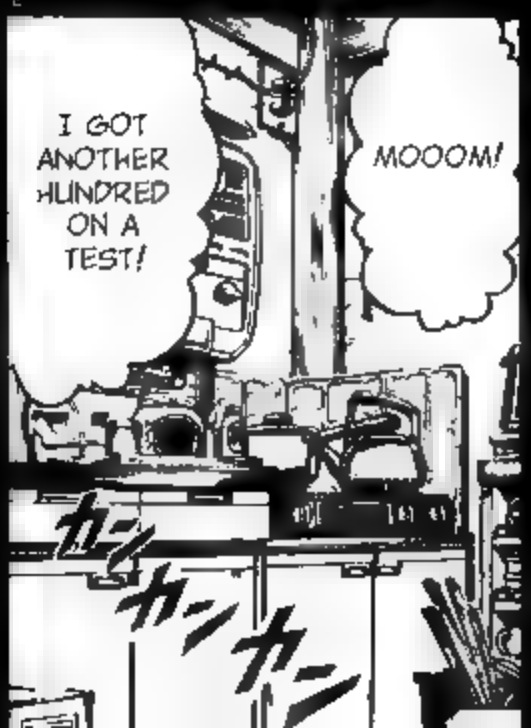
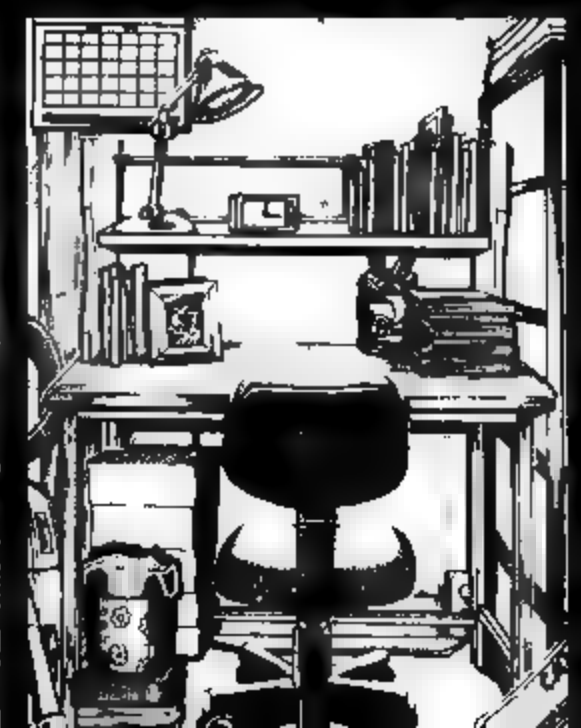
Intermission II~
Dialogue: Masaru's Story

2

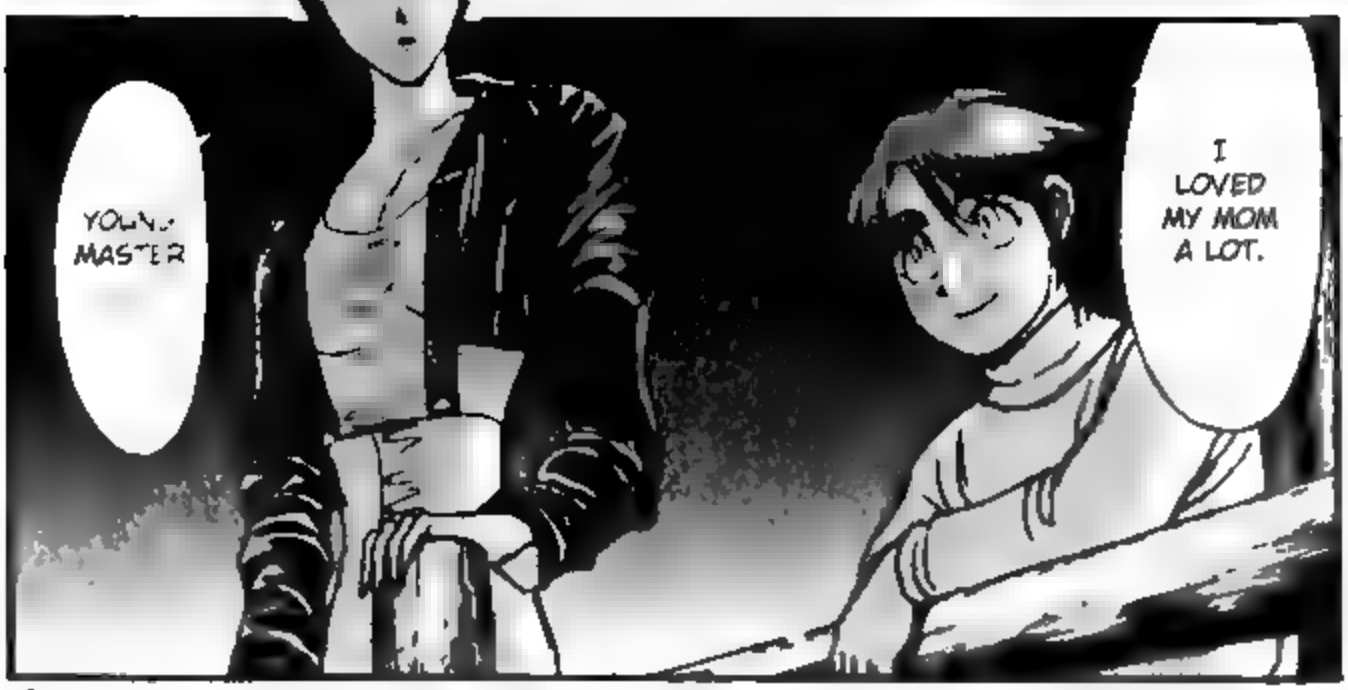




WHEN I WAS IN MY SECOND YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL.

THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO...

WE LIVED IN A TINY APARTMENT ...
AND MOM WAS OUT LATE MOST NIGHTS, WORKING. BUT I DIDN'T CARE. I WAS HAPPY.

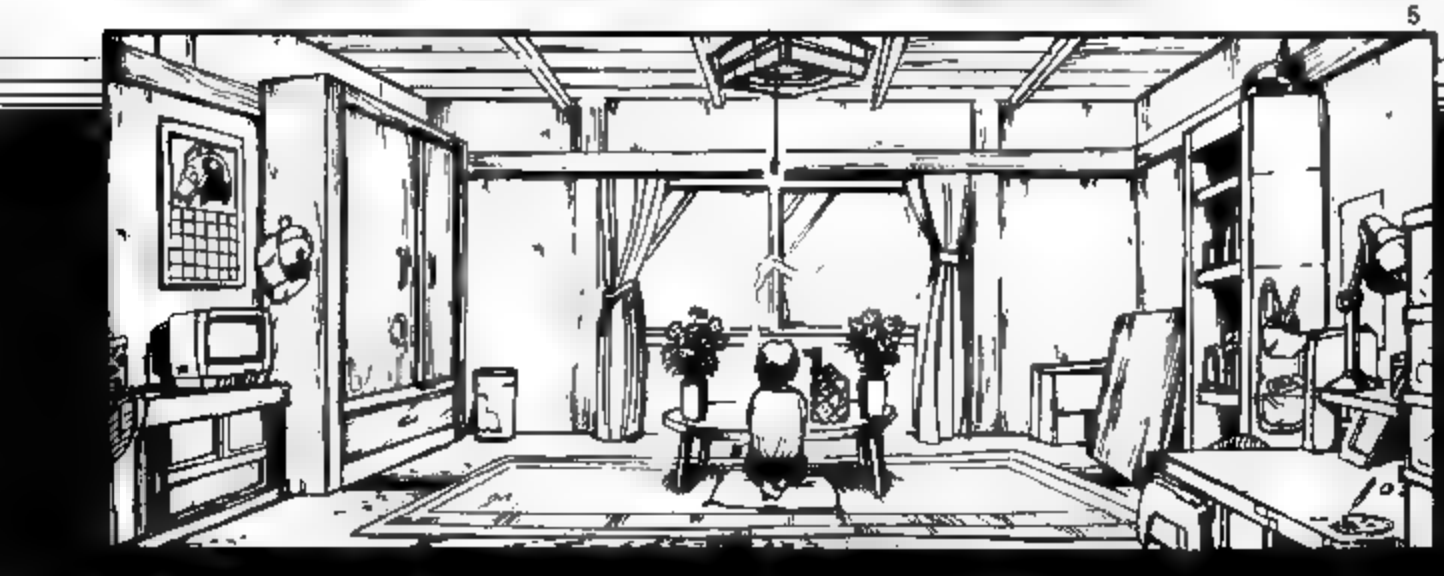

I LOVED MY MOM A LOT.
YOUNG MASTER

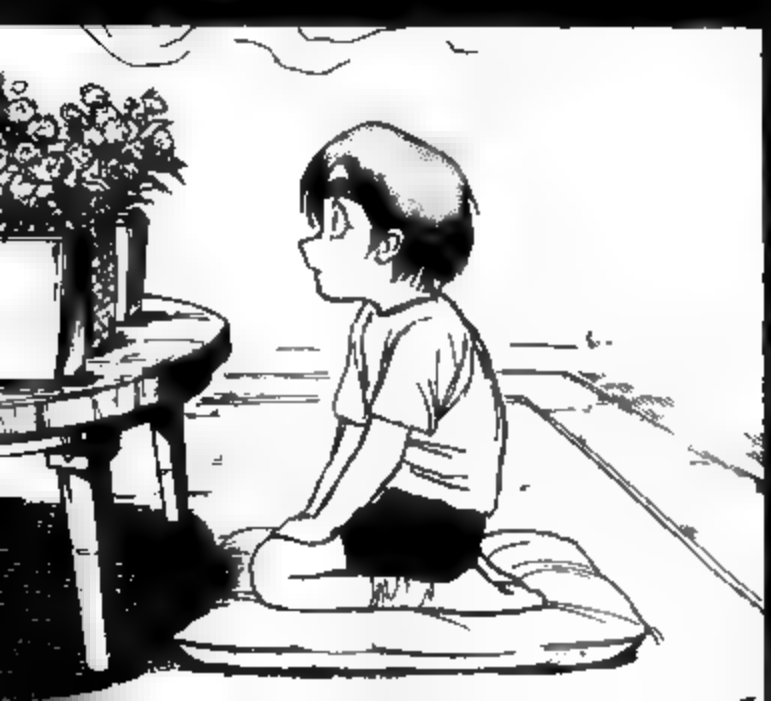
BUT YOU WOKE UP BECAUSE I DID, RIGHT?
THAT IS ONLY NATURAL. I AM THE ONE WHOM YOUR GRANDFATHER APPOINTED TO GUARD YOU, AFTER ALL.
Hee hee hee No money. can't pay you

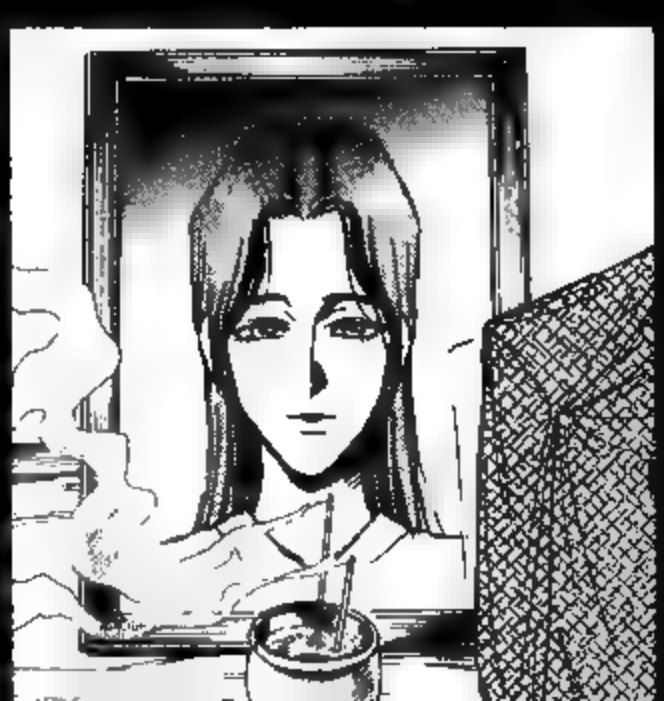
SORRY TO KEEP YOU UP SO LATE LISTENING TO ME, SHIROGANE ...
NOT AT ALL, YOUNG MASTER. YOU SPEAK ABOUT YOURSELF SO RARELY.

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.
I THINK THAT I CAN STILL DISCUSS WITH YOU WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE WE MET.
I DO NOT KNOW ...
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT I, TOO, DO NOT UNDER-STAND, BUT...
GRANDPA, HUH...? I WONDER WHY HE DID THAT.

RIGHT
PLEASE GO ON.
IN THAT CASE ...

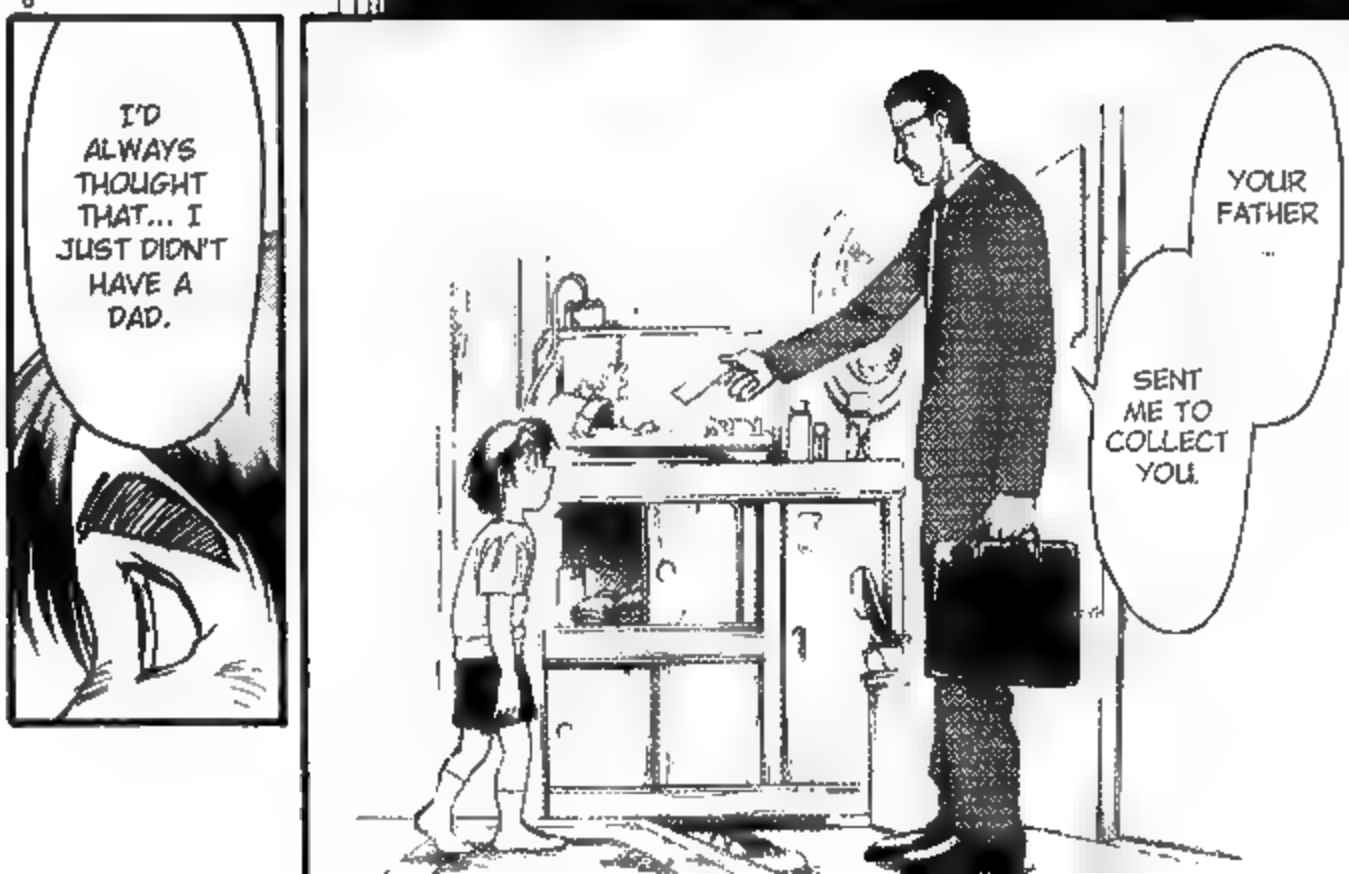






DID YOU HAVE ANY RELATIVES ...?
UH-UH. BEFORE I WAS 7, I'D NEVER MET ANY UNCLES, OR AUNTS, OR ANYTHING.
ALL OF A SUDDEN, I WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD.
IT HAPPENED SO FAST...
THE DOCTOR SAID IT MUST'VE BEEN A HEART CONDITION SHE HADN'T BEEN AWARE OF.

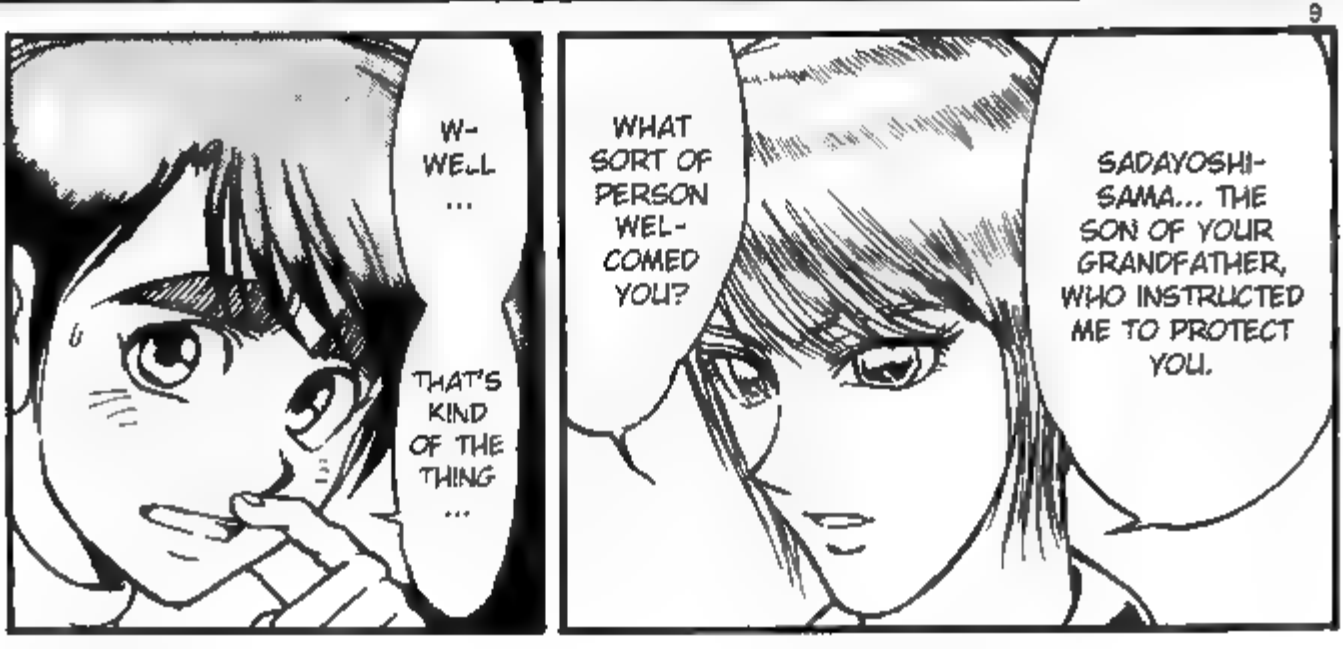
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK



フィクク
HERE WE ARE.
THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME FROM NOW ON.
SAIGA SADAYOSHI-SAMA, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER OF THE MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION PSYGA...
THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, IN OTHER WORDS... RESIDES ON THESE PREMISES

THAT MY MOM WORKED FOR A TEMPORARY STAFFING COMPANY THAT WAS PART OF THE PSYGA CONGLOMERATE.
THAT LAWYER TOLD ME...
YEAH. ME, BEING THE SON OF SOME HUGE COMPANY PRESIDENT!
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE A SHOCK.
AT SOME POINT, SHE CAUGHT MY DAD'S EYE AND THEY STARTED SEEING EACH OTHER.
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID MY MOM WAS ...
W-WELL ...
HEY, SHIROGANE, DO YOU KNOW WHAT A "LOVER" OR A "MISTRESS" IS?
BUT MY DAD ALREADY HAD AN ACTUAL WIFE, AND CHILDREN TOO. SO...
...I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY, BUT I THINK WE'D BETTER MOVE ON NOW...
I WAS INVITED TO BECOME A "LOVER" MANY TIMES IN OTHER CIRCUSES ...
I... I AM NOT VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE CONCEPT, EITHER, BUT...

MY NEW DAD ...
ANYWAY... DESPITE THAT, HE'D DECIDED TO TAKE ME IN AND RAISE ME, SINCE I DIDN'T HAVE ANY RELATIVES.
SFX: KNOCK KNOCK
SAIGA SADA-YOSHI.

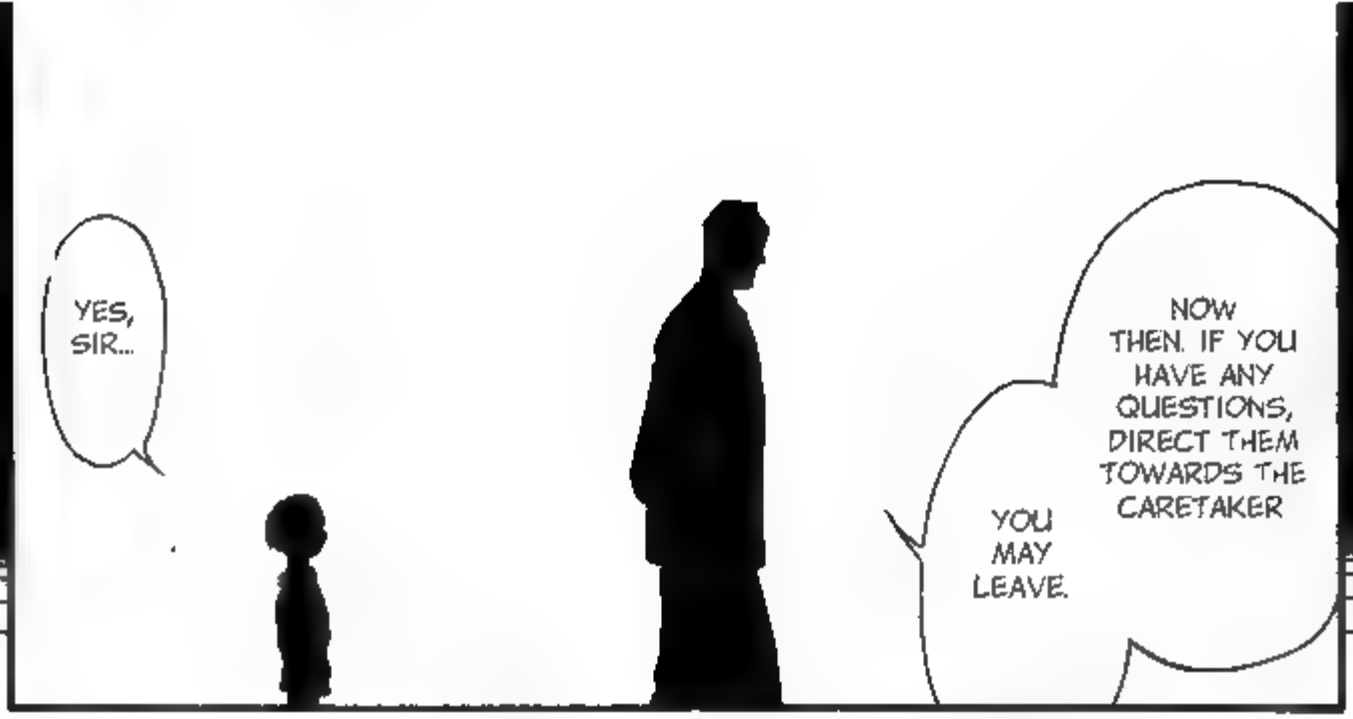

W-WE-LL ...
THAT'S KIND OF THE THING ...
WHAT SORT OF PERSON WEL-COMED YOU?
SADAYOSHI-SAMA... THE SON OF YOUR GRANDFATHER, WHO INSTRUCTED ME TO PROTECT YOU.

TURN AROUND. JUST THERE, WHERE YOU ARE.

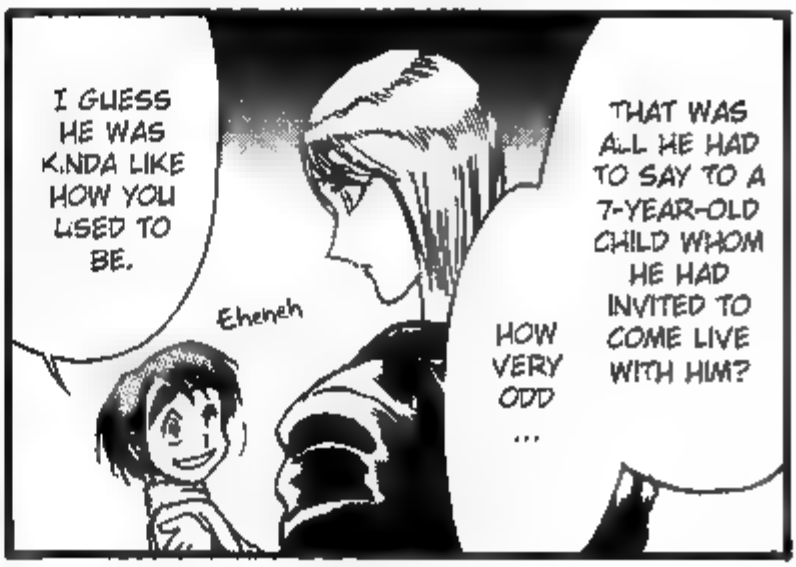
WHAT COULD HE HAVE BEEN THINKING?
HE ASKED A TON OF QUESTIONS.

AT WHAT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ARE YOU WEAKEST?
N-NO

ARE YOU ILL OFTEN?
?

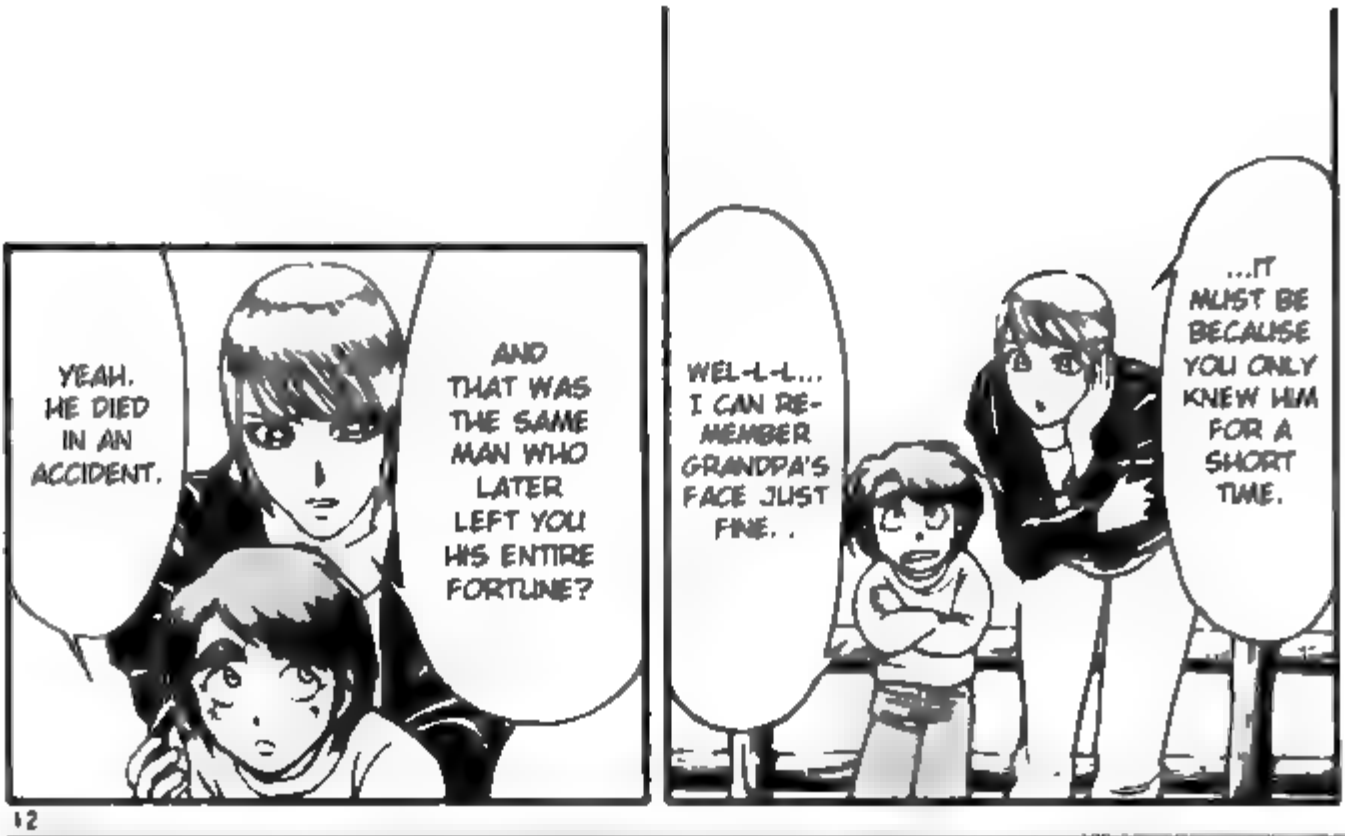

YES, SIR...
NOW THEN. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, DIRECT THEM TOWARDS THE CARETAKER
YOU MAY LEAVE.

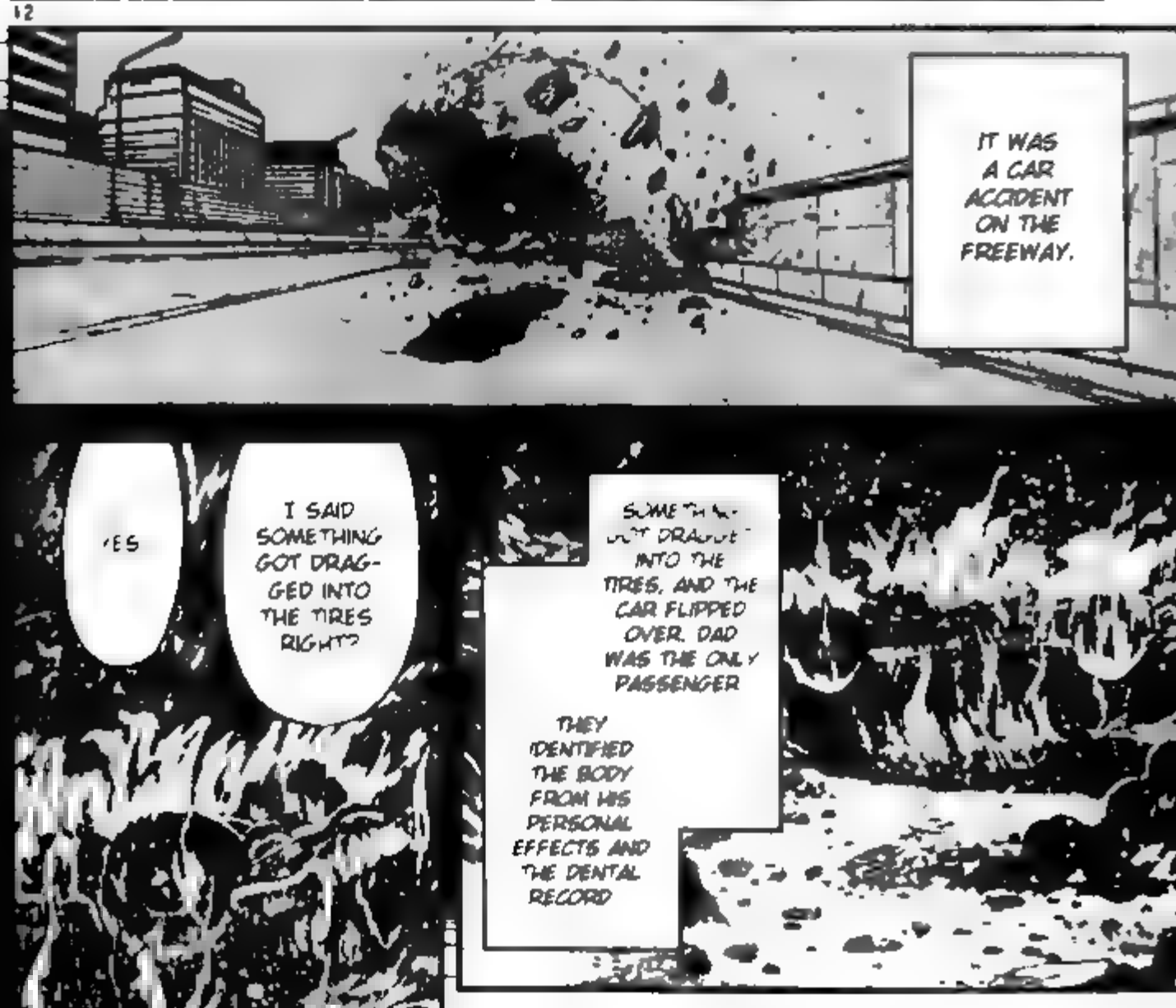
NO! JUST A LITTLE BIT! LIKE, THE FEELING WAS KINDA... NEVER MIND, I WAS KIDDING!


I GUESS HE WAS K.NDA LIKE HOW YOU USED TO BE.
Eheheh
HOW VERY ODD ...
THAT WAS ALL HE HAD TO SAY TO A 7-YEAR-OLD CHILD WHOM HE HAD INVITED TO COME LIVE WITH HIM?

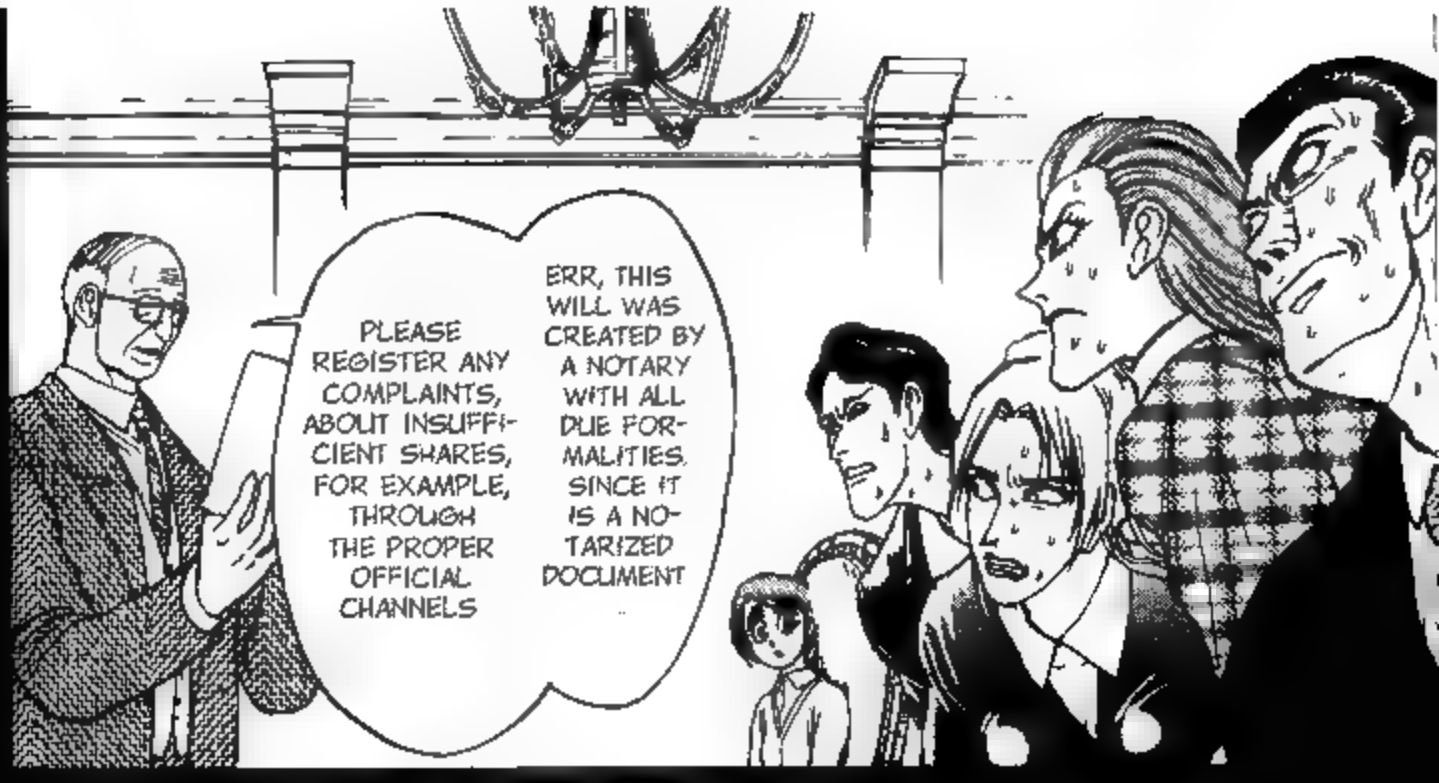
BUT I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER HIS FACE.

HM?
IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO REMEMBER IT FOR A WHILE, BUT...
IT'S JUST MY DAD'S FACE ...
I NEVER FORGET ANY-THING I'VE SEEN EVEN ONCE ...

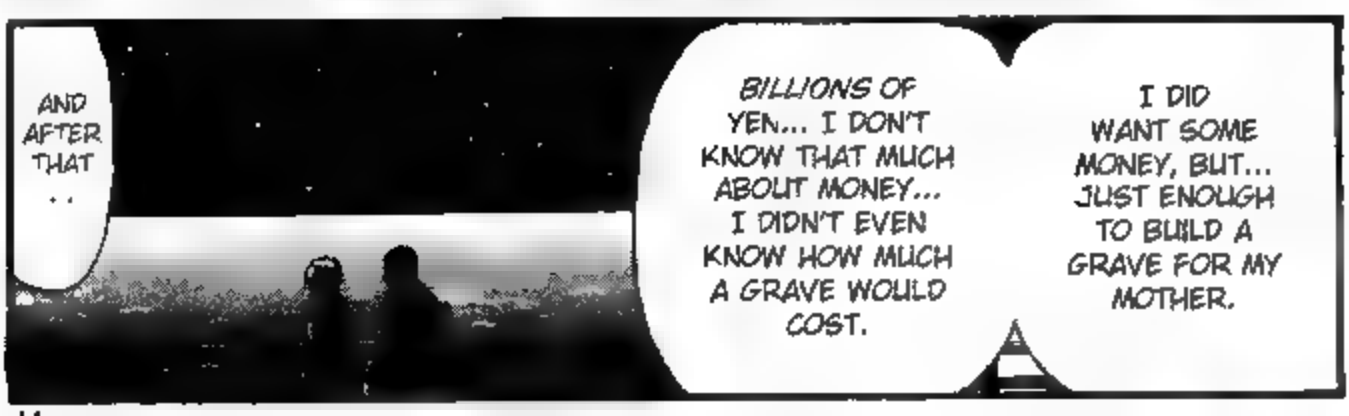

YEAH. HE DIED IN AN ACCIDENT.
AND THAT WAS THE SAME MAN WHO LATER LEFT YOU HIS ENTIRE FORTUNE?
WEL-L-L... I CAN REMEMBER GRANDPA'S FACE JUST FINE. .
...IT MUST BE BECAUSE YOU ONLY KNEW HIM FOR A SHORT TIME.


IT WAS A CAR ACCIDENT ON THE FREEWAY.
YES
I SAID SOMETHING GOT DRAGGED INTO THE TIRES RIGHT?
SOMETHING GOT DRAGGED INTO THE TIRES, AND THE CAR FLIPPED OVER. DAD WAS THE ONLY PASSENGER
THEY IDENTIFIED THE BODY FROM HIS PERSONAL EFFECTS AND THE DENTAL RECORD
THE STRANGE THING ...?
BUT THE STRANGE THING WAS...

APPARENTLY THAT "SOMETHING" LOOKED A LOT LIKE A HUGE MARIONETTE.
I WONDER IF MAYBE IT WAS ONE LIKE YOUR ARLEQUIN ...
THE EXECUTOR BEING PRESENT AS WELL, IT IS TIME FOR THE WILL TO BE OPENED IN THE PRESENCE OF HIS CHILDREN.
AFTER THAT
.....
..THE ABOVE-MENTIONED ASSETS AND PATENT RIGHTS, AS WELL AS ALL REVENUE THEREOF..
ARE TO BE...
INHERITED BY THE THIRD SON, SAIGA MASARU.


PLEASE REGISTER ANY COMPLAINTS, ABOUT INSUFFICIENT SHARES, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH THE PROPER OFFICIAL CHANNELS
ERR, THIS WILL WAS CREATED BY A NOTARY WITH ALL DUE FORMALITIES. SINCE IT IS A NOTARIZED DOCUMENT

18 BILLION YEN, HANDED OVER TO THAT LITTLE BRAT?!
THAT'S RIGHT! THE *THOUGHT* OF ALLOWING A MISTRESS'S CHILD TO INHERIT EVERYTHING!
YOU CAN BET I WILL!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS!


AND AFTER THAT . .
BILLIONS OF YEN... I DON'T KNOW THAT MUCH ABOUT MONEY... I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HOW MUCH A GRAVE WOULD COST.
I DID WANT SOME MONEY, BUT... JUST ENOUGH TO BUILD A GRAVE FOR MY MOTHER.

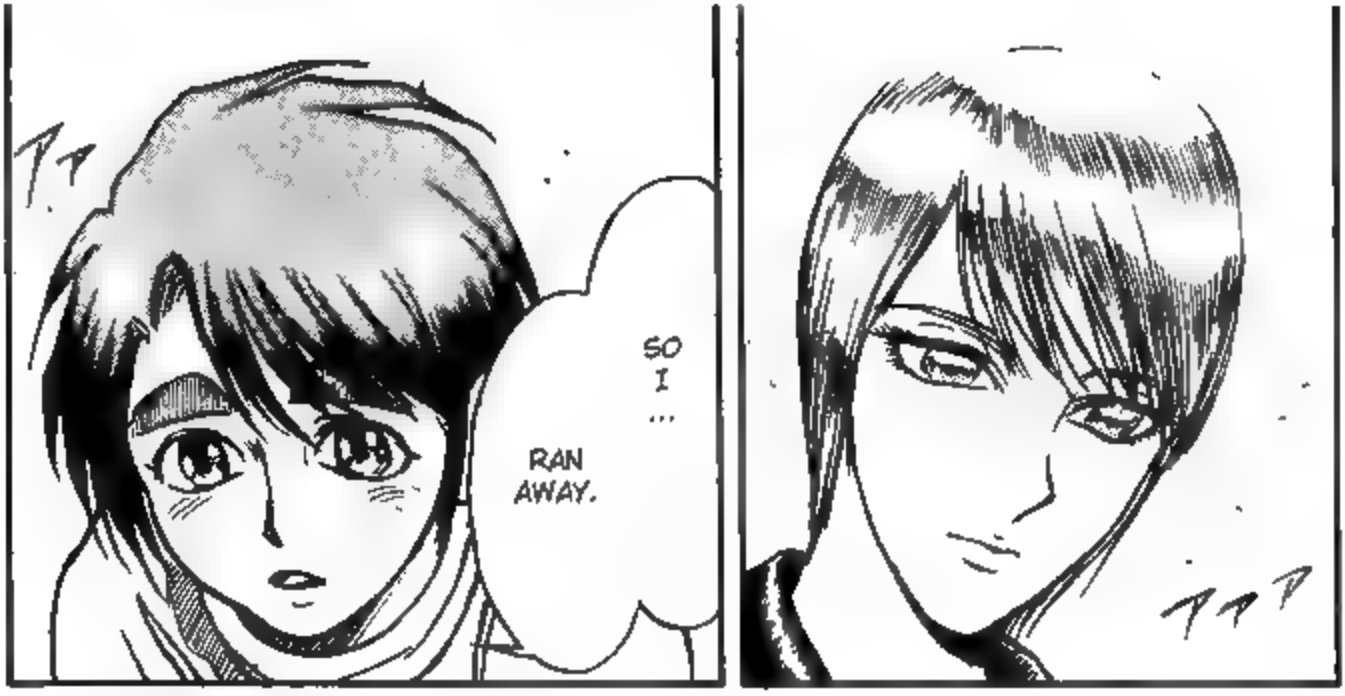
YOUR SIBLINGS WERE OUT FOR YOUR LIFE.

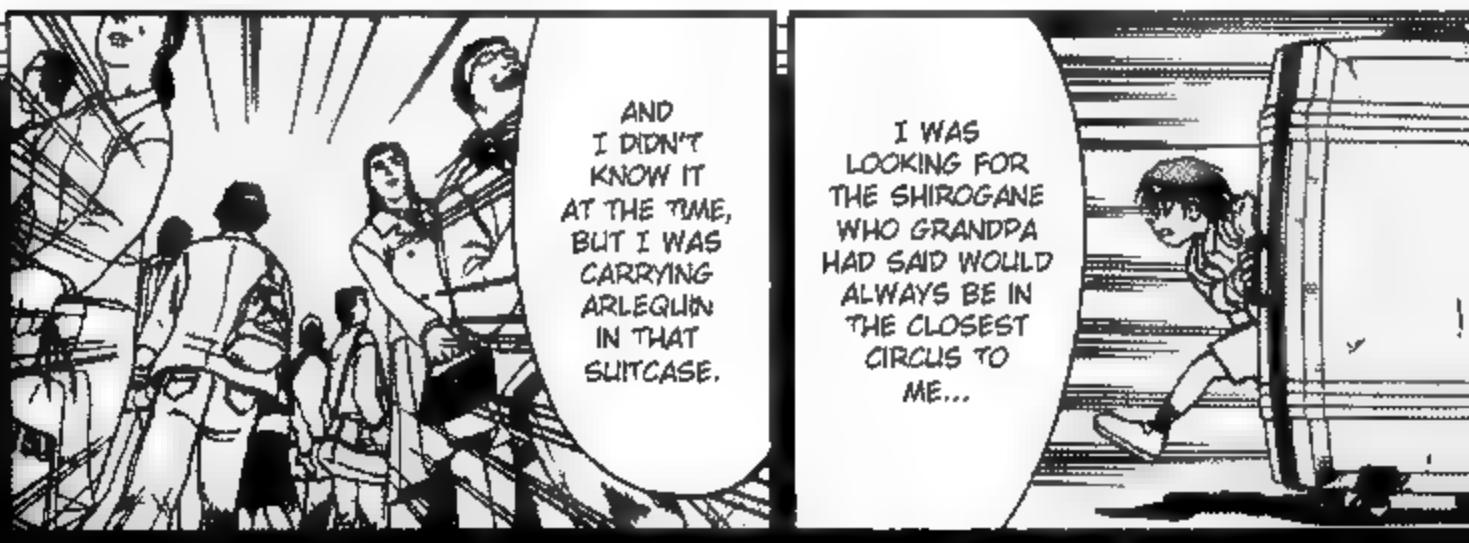
I'D BEEN SHOVED INTO THE ROAD FIVE TIMES IN THREE DAYS. THINGS HAD COME FALLING DOWN ON ME FROM ABOVE SEVEN TIMES.
I WAS REALLY SCARED.
I MADE UP MY MIND TO RUN AWAY.
JUST LIKE GRANDPA HAD TOLD ME TO...
SO YOUR GRANDFATHER KNEW THAT YOUR LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER...?
MM-HMM

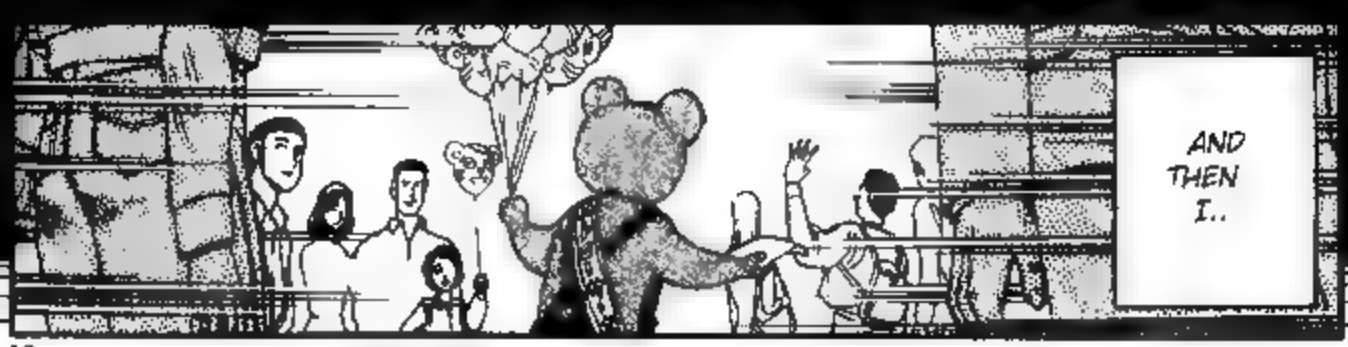
WHO ARE YOU?
COME, NOW, LAD. BOYS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO CRY.
YOUR NEW GRAND-FATHER.
I'M SAIGA SHOUJI

WOW, THERE ARE DOLLS EVERY-WHERE!
HA HA HA. FOR SOME REASON, ALL SAIGA MEN ARE INTER-ESTED IN KARAKURI DOLLS.
I'M SURE YOU WILL BE TOO, SOON ENOUGH.
TAKE THIS SUITCASE AND RUN AWAY AT ONCE.
AND ANY-THING ODD HAP-PENS ...
YOU HAVE LOST YOUR FATHER ...
HOWEVER IF, BEFORE YOU HAVE GROWN UP INTO THAT KIND OF MAN...

SHIROGANE WILL PROTECT YOU.
ザァァ


SO I ...
RAN AWAY.


AND I DIDN'T KNOW IT AT THE TIME, BUT I WAS CARRYING ARLEQUIN IN THAT SUITCASE.
I WAS LOOKING FOR THE SHIROGANE WHO GRANDPA HAD SAID WOULD ALWAYS BE IN THE CLOSEST CIRCUS TO ME...


AND THEN I..

SO, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE WE MET, SHIROGANE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
HHPPPPP

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

"Saiga Group" is occasionally written as 才賀グル　プ, using the kanji for the name Saiga, but usually it appears in katakana as サイガグル　プ I've gone with PSYGA, since that's how the word is written on the group's logo

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text. and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves

INTERMISSION III~
DIALOGUE:
SHIROGANE'S STORY

LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY...
THIS IS THE STORY OF A DISTANT MEMORY...
MAITRE GUY...
DO NOT BE AFRAID, ELEO-NORE.
AT THE END OF THESE TRACKS.
WHERE ARE THE NEXT AUTOMATA WAITING ...?
WHAT IS IT?

A LONELY JOURNEY... CARRYING A LARGE SUITCASE.

I WAS TRAVELING WITH MAITRE GUY.

FROM MY FIRST MOMENT OF AWARENESS ...

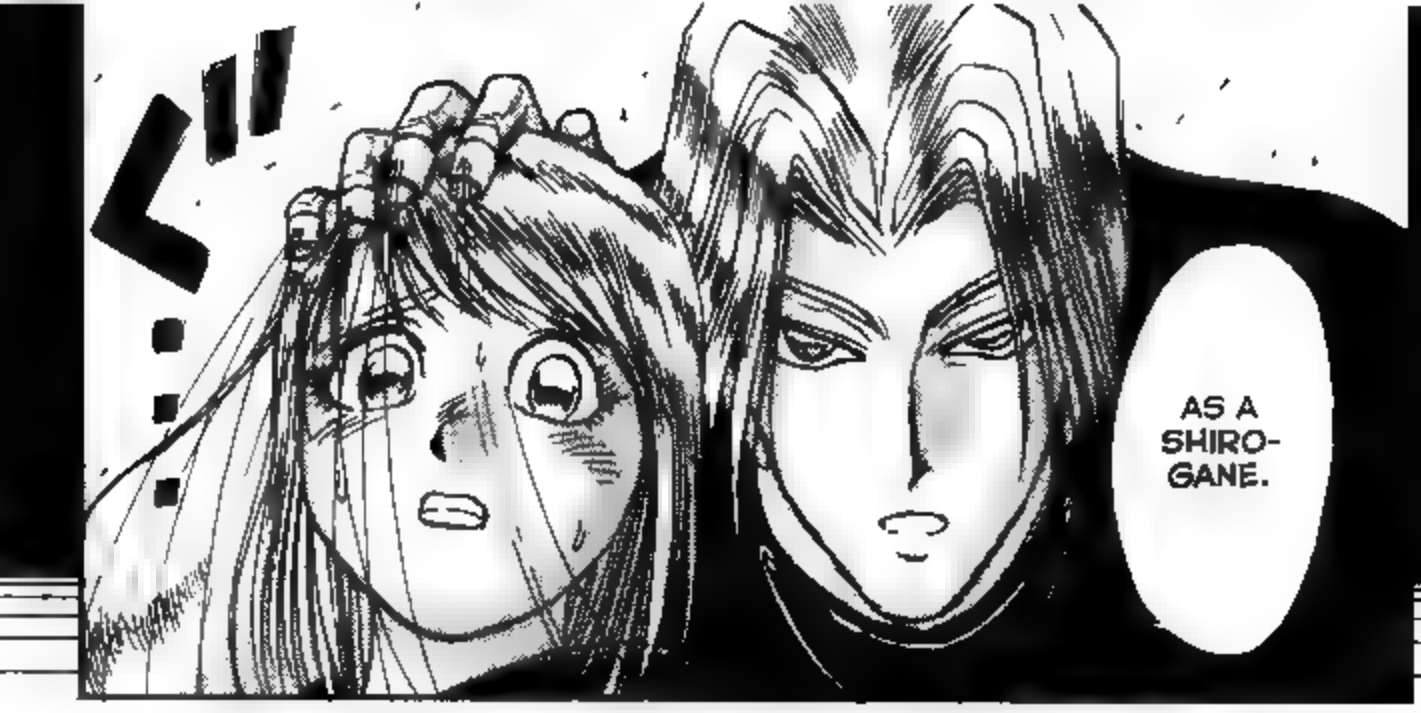
AS FAR BACK AS I CAN REMEMBER ...

S IT OKAY IF I JUST KEEP CALLING YOU SHIRO-GANE?
OF COURSE, YOUNG MASTER.
SFX: MMM MMPH
MAITRE GUY IS THE ONLY ONE WHOM I RECALL USING IT...
HUH, SO YOUR REAL NAME IS ELEONORE?

BUT... I DON'T LIKE HIM VERY MUCH.
MAITRE GUY... I DUNNO. I GUESS I SHOULD FOR YOUR SAKE...
4 SFX: MMM, MMM
HE JUST SEEMS REALLY COLD.
SFX: SNORING

"ALL"...? WHEN YOU SAY IT LIKE THAT IT SOUNDS LIKE THERE ARE A BUNCH OF SHEROGANE OUT THERE!
Ha ha ha!
BUT, YOUNG MASTER, HE SEEMS THAT WAY BECAUSE WE SHEROGANE HAVE ALL BEEN TRAINED TO KEEP A CERTAIN LEVEL OF COMPOSURE
NOT AT ALL
SORRY
WAIT, DON'T TELL ME..
.....
THERE ARE MANY SHEROGANE IN THIS WORLD
THAT IS EXACTLY RIGHT, YOUNG MASTER

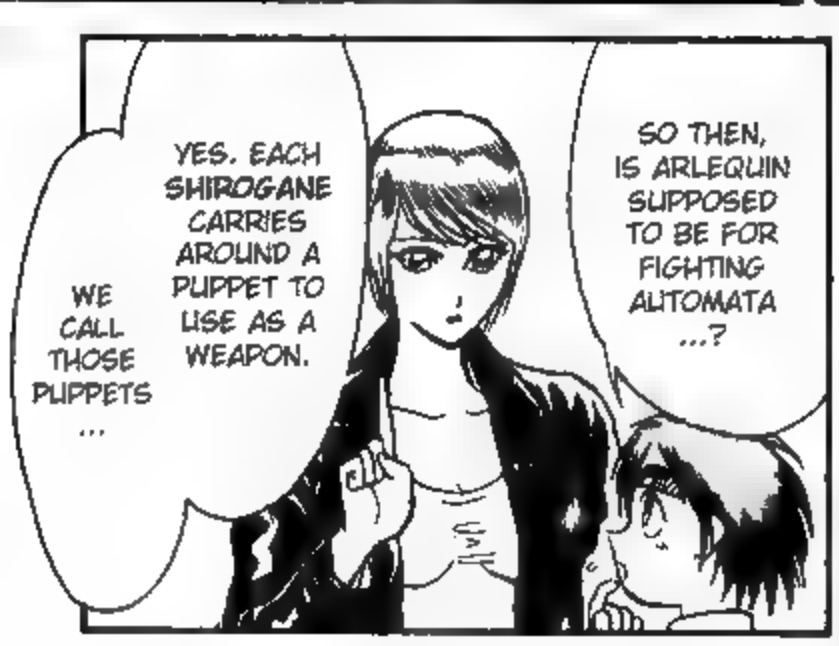
DO NOT AVERT YOUR GAZE. ELSE-WISE
THIS IS THE ENEMY THAT YOU MUST FIGHT

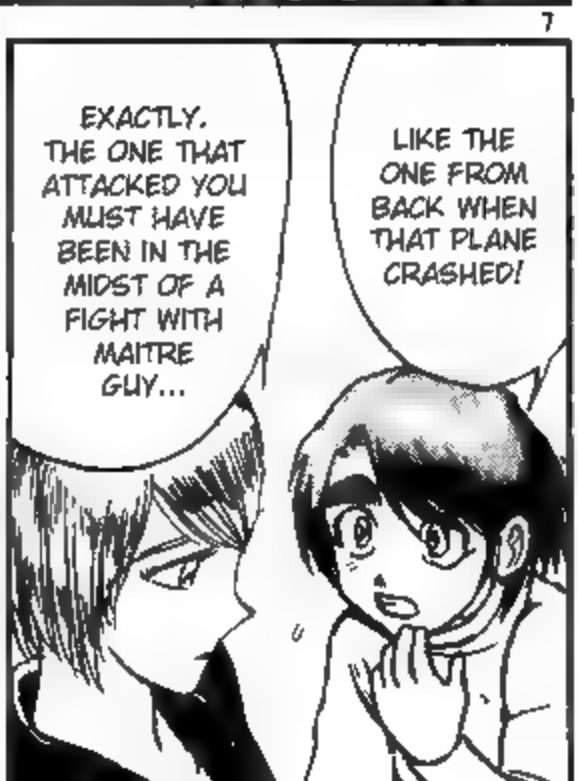

AS A SHIRO-GANE.

HUMAN-SHAPED MACHINES THAT DRAW POWER FROM DRINKING HUMAN BLOOD.
OH!

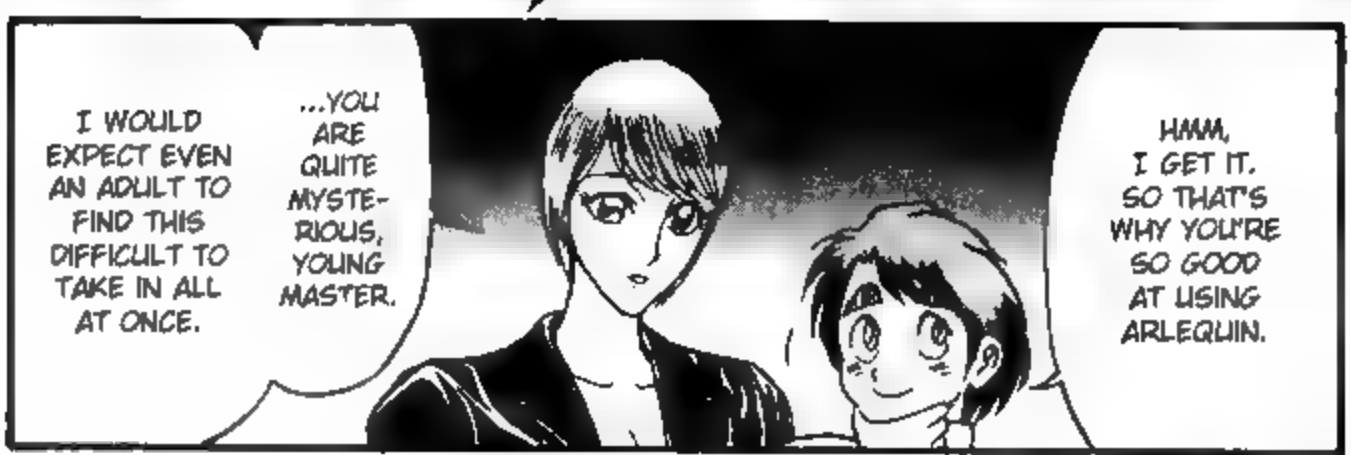
S-SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT SHIROGANE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO DESTROY THESE AUTO-SOMETHINGS THAT MOVE ON THEIR OWN?
AUTO-MATA... THE SINGULAR IS AUTO-MATON.

7


SO THEN, IS ARLEQUIN SUPPOSED TO BE FOR FIGHTING AUTOMATA ...?
YES. EACH SHIROGANE CARRIES AROUND A PUPPET TO USE AS A WEAPON.
WE CALL THOSE PUPPETS ...


LIKE THE ONE FROM BACK WHEN THAT PLANE CRASHED!
EXACTLY. THE ONE THAT ATTACKED YOU MUST HAVE BEEN IN THE MIDST OF A FIGHT WITH MAITRE GUY...

MARIO-
NETTES.


I WOULD EXPECT EVEN AN ADULT TO FIND THIS DIFFICULT TO TAKE IN ALL AT ONCE.
...YOU ARE QUITE MYSTE-RIOUS, YOUNG MASTER.
HMM, I GET IT. SO THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SO GOOD AT USING ARLEQUIN.

YES... I SUP-POSE SO.
AHAHA! I'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH A TON OF BIZARRE STUFF WITH YOU, SHIROGANE. AT THIS POINT IT'S MORE LIKE, WHAT *WOULDN'T* I BELIEVE?

SFX: WAVES
I WANNA KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!
THAT'S RIGHT. SO I WANT YOU TO TELL ME MORE!!
WHEN I TURNED SEVEN, MY JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD WITH MAITRE GUY CAME TO AN END.
SFX: CAWING, FLAPPING
SFX: WAVES
HE BROUGHT ME TO A PLACE IN FRANCE KNOWN AS QUIBERON.

ガラガラ
BEFORE THAT, HE TOLD ME THE GENERAL STORY.
ヒーオオオ
THEY SCATTER BEHIND THEM THE SEEDS OF THIS "SUFFERING"... OF WHICH MAITRE SAID ONLY THAT IT WAS AN ODD DISEASE.
AND THAT AS THEY TRAVEL THE WORLD IN THE GUISE OF A CIRCUS ...
ヒーオオオ
ガラ
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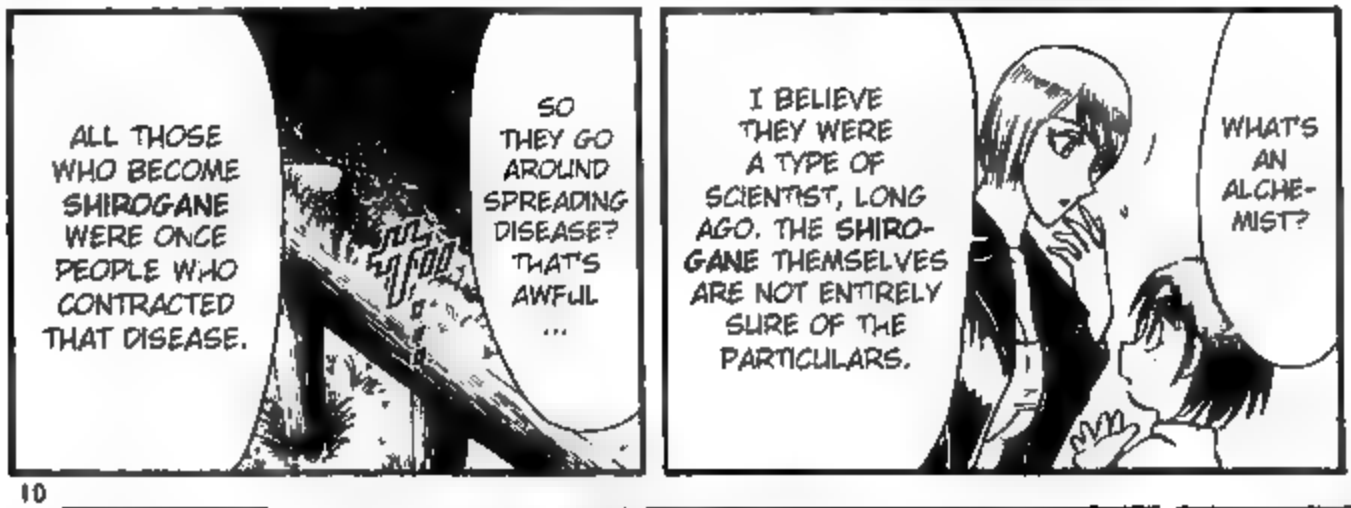
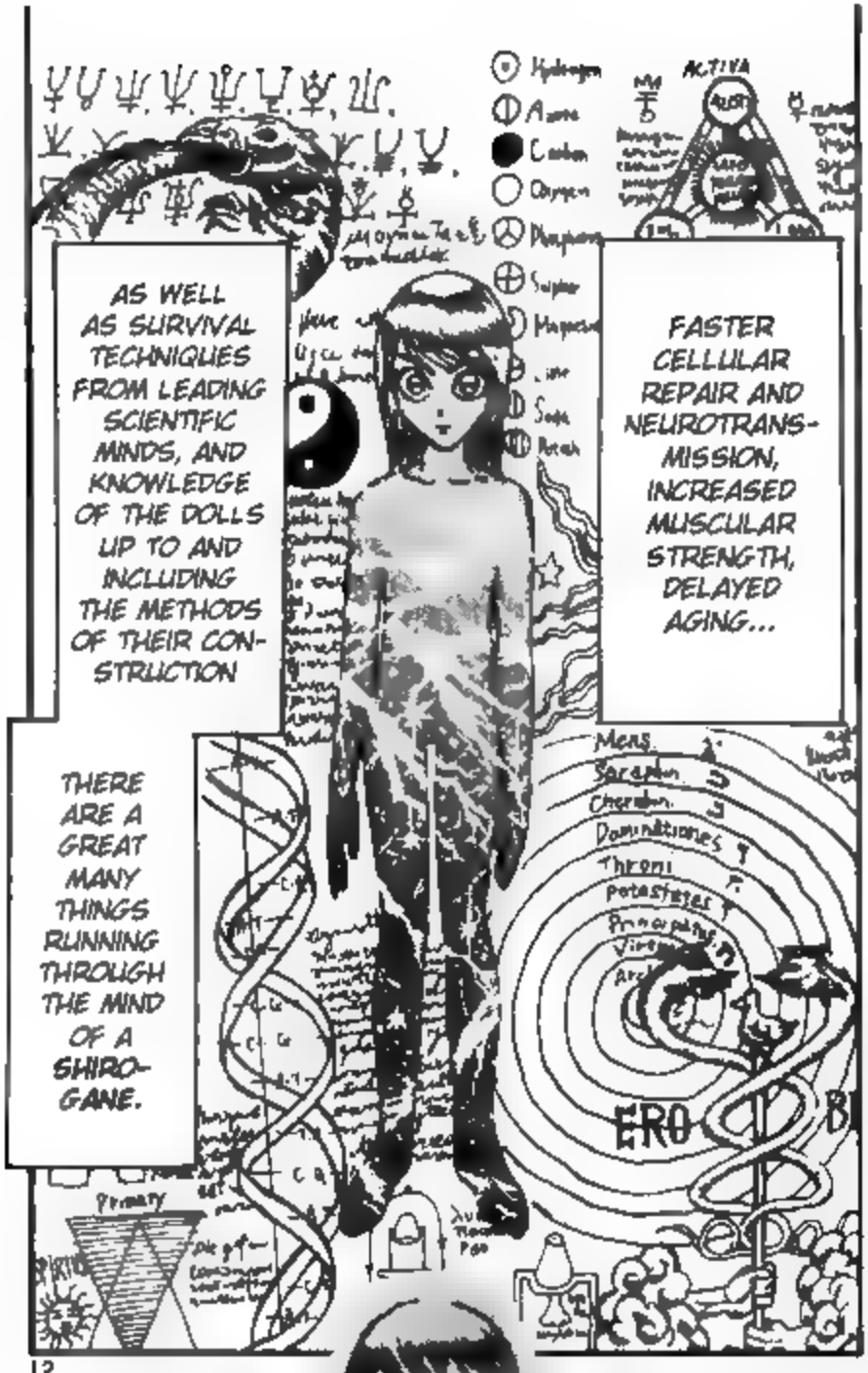
THAT THE AUTOMATA WERE BUILT A VERY LONG TIME AGO BY AN ALCHEMIST.
FOR THE PURPOSE OF VISITING SUFFERING UPON THE PEOPLE HE DESPISED.

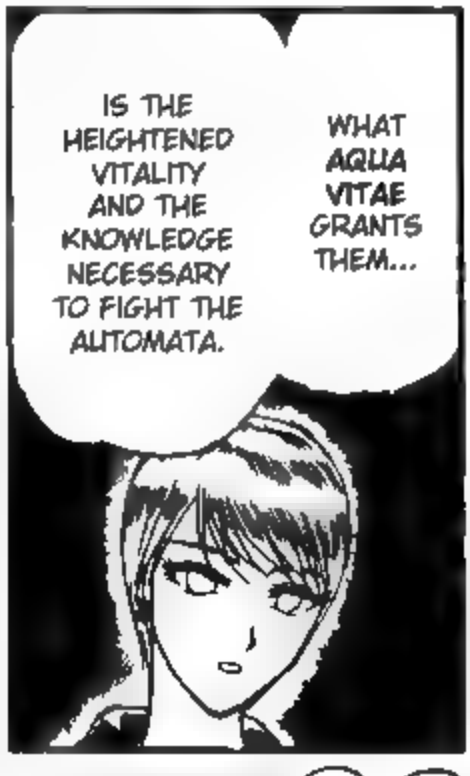

ALL THOSE WHO BECOME SHIROGANE WERE ONCE PEOPLE WHO CONTRACTED THAT DISEASE.
SO THEY GO AROUND SPREADING DISEASE? THAT'S AWFUL ...
I BELIEVE THEY WERE A TYPE OF SCIENTIST, LONG AGO. THE SHIROGANE THEMSELVES ARE NOT ENTIRELY SURE OF THE PARTICULARS.
WHAT'S AN ALCHEMIST?

SHIROGANE APPEAR BEFORE THOSE SUFFERING FROM THE DISEASE, AND ASK THEM WHETHER OR NOT THEY WILL THEMSELVES BECOME SHIROGANE.
HUH?

AQUA VITAE.
AN ELIXIR THAT CAN HEAL ANY ILL-NESS.
THEY ARE GIVEN A CERTAIN MEDICINE.
AND IF THEY SAY THEY WILL ...?
THE REASON BEING THAT AQUA VITAE ...
TAKES CONTROL OF THE HEART.
NO.
AND THEN JUST REFUSE TO BE A SHIROGANE AND DO THE WHOLE DOLL-DESTROYING THING?
DON'T SOME PEOPLE DRINK IT AND GET HEALED ...
11
THOUGH THEY HAVE ESCAPED THE DISEASE, THOSE WHO BECOME SHIROGANE ARE BOUND BY CHAINS OF HATRED FOR THE AUTOMATA.
DESTROY THE AUTO-MATA!


AS WELL AS SURVIVAL TECHNIQUES FROM LEADING SCIENTIFIC MINDS, AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE DOLLS UP TO AND INCLUDING THE METHODS OF THEIR CONSTRUCTION
FASTER CELLULAR REPAIR AND NEUROTRANSMISSION, INCREASED MUSCULAR STRENGTH, DELAYED AGING...
THERE ARE A GREAT MANY THINGS RUNNING THROUGH THE MIND OF A SHIROGANE.

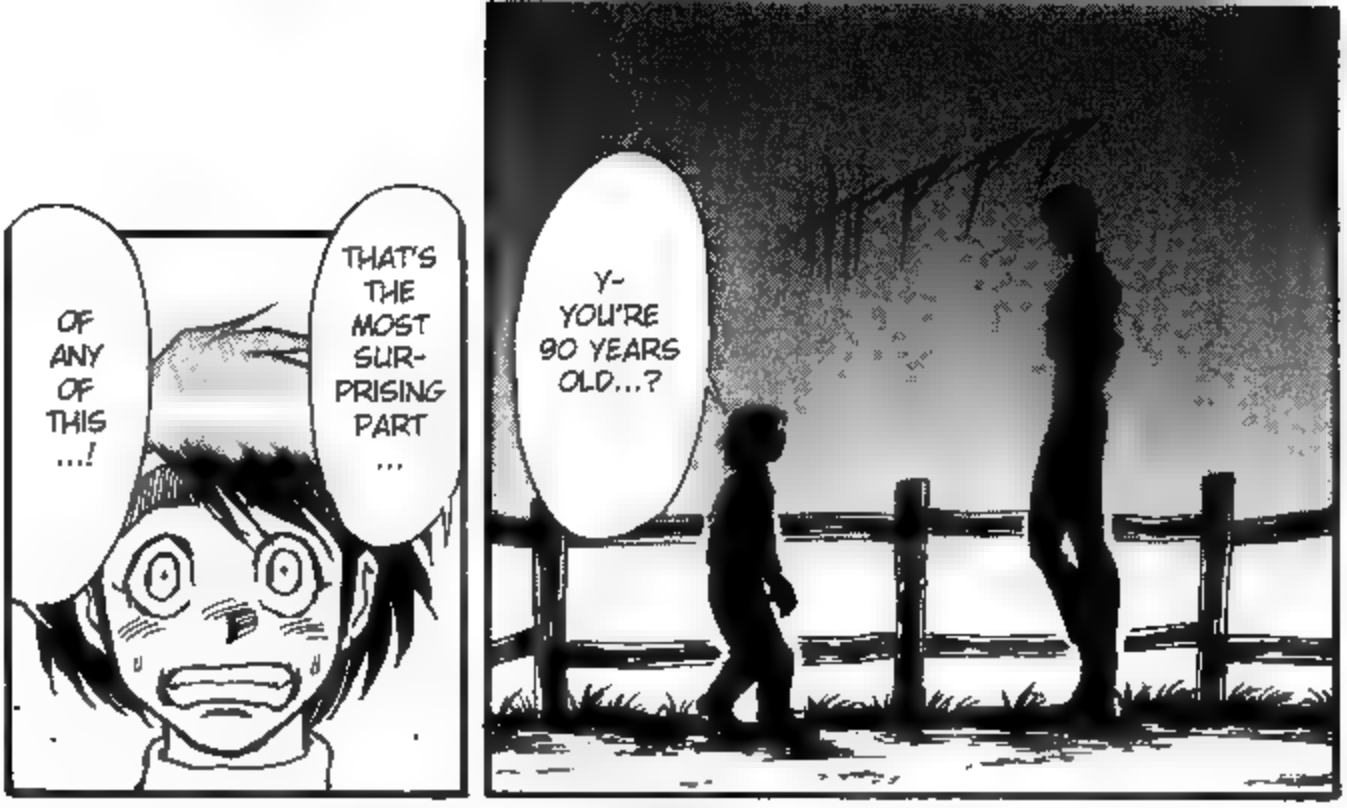
SO THEN ...


WHAT AQUA VITAE GRANTS THEM...
IS THE HEIGHTENED VITALITY AND THE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY TO FIGHT THE AUTOMATA.

I HAVE BEEN ALIVE FOR 90 YEARS.
YES, YOUNG MASTER.

TIME PASSES QUITE SLOWLY FOR A SHIROGANE.
"DE-LAYED AGING" ...?
"DE- ...

MORE SLOWLY ...? SHIROGANE ...
SO YOU GET OLDER ...

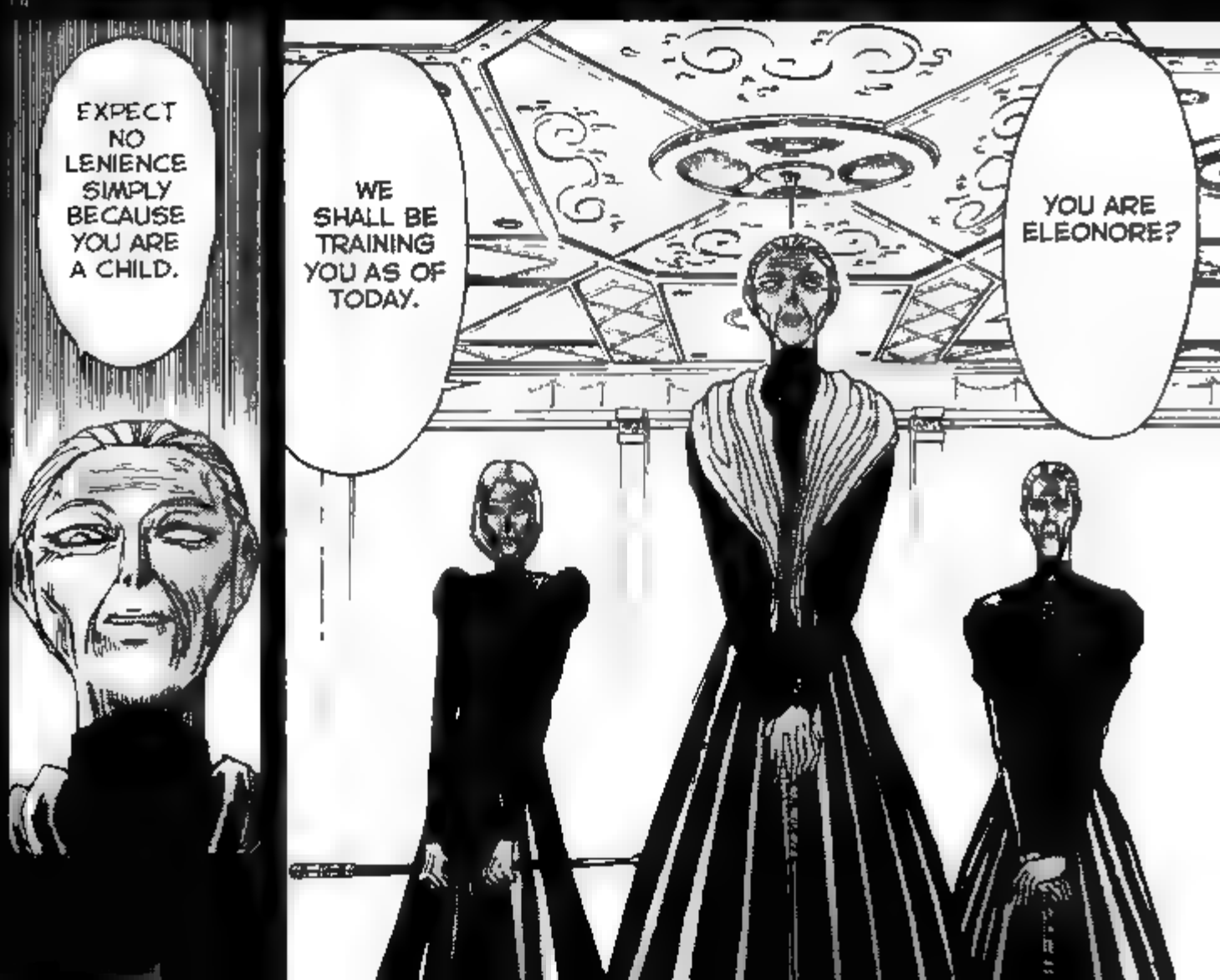


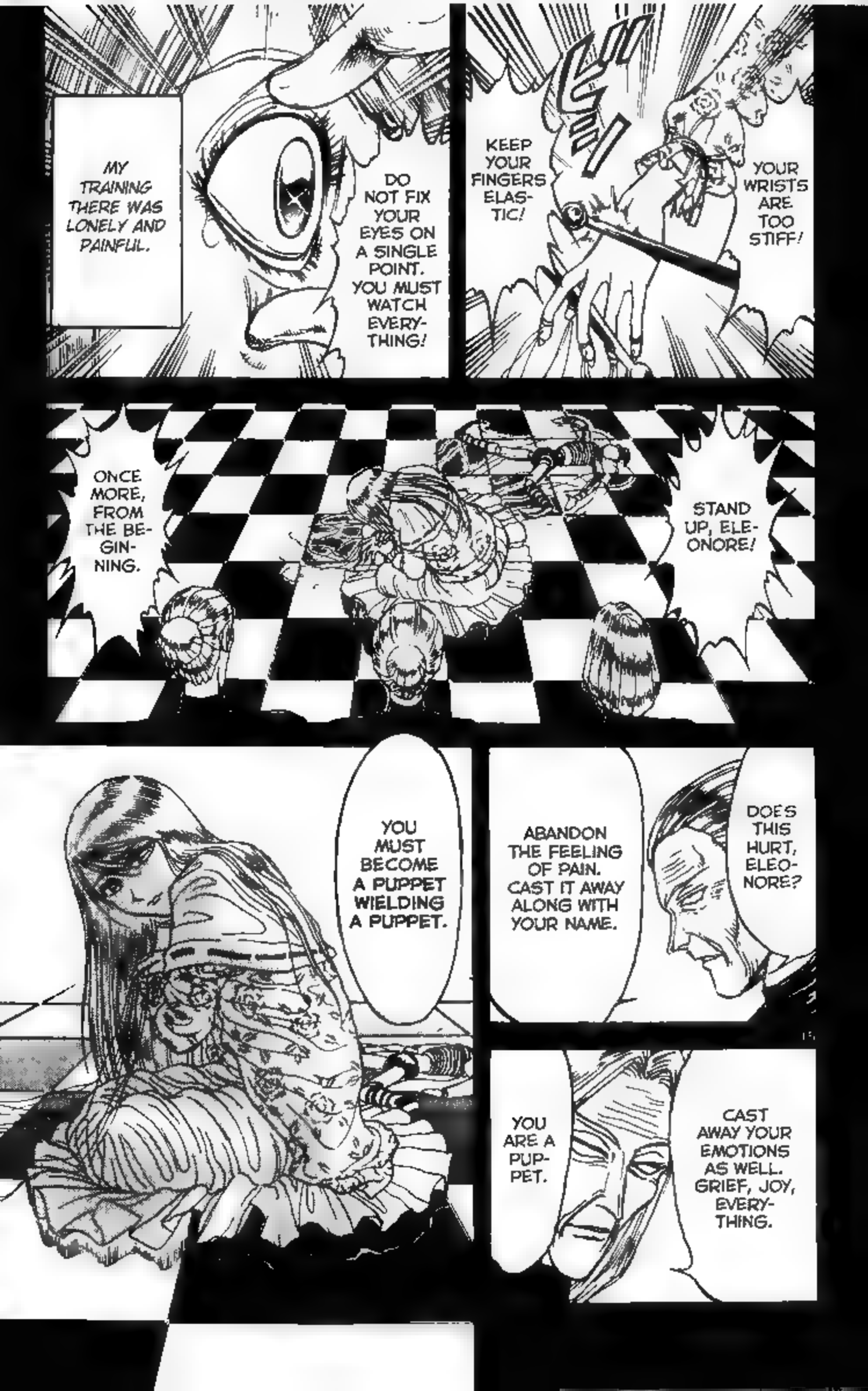
SFX: WOBBLE WOBBLE

13

ALL THOSE WHO BECOME SHIROGANE TRAVEL THERE TO BE TRAINED IN THE ART OF USING A MARIONETTE.
SO, ANYWAY, SHIRO-GANE ...
WHY DID YOU GO TO QUIBE-RON?

"KNOWING HOW" AND "BEING ABLE" ARE TWO VERY DIFFERENT THINGS, YOUNG MASTER. WE MUST PRACTICE THE METHODS PHYSICALLY BEFORE WE CAN USE THEM.
HUH? BUT SHOULDN'T THAT HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE THINGS YOU LEARNED FROM DRINKING AQUA VITAE?

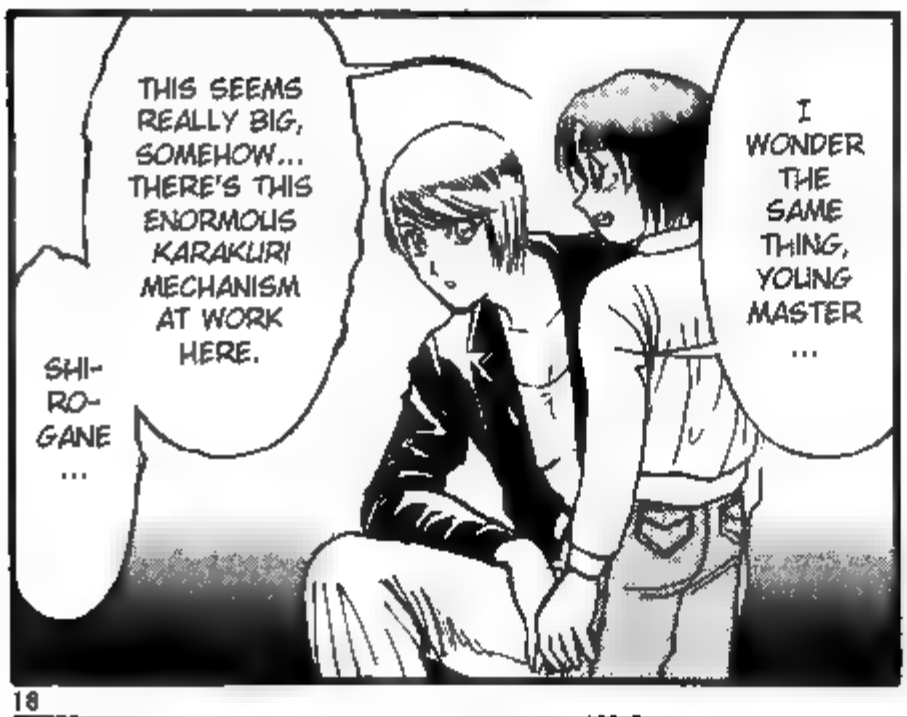

EXPECT NO LENIENCE SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU ARE A CHILD.
WE SHALL BE TRAINING YOU AS OF TODAY.
YOU ARE ELEONORE?


MY TRAINING THERE WAS LONELY AND PAINFUL.
DO NOT FIX YOUR EYES ON A SINGLE POINT. YOU MUST WATCH EVERY-THING!
KEEP YOUR FINGERS ELAS-TIC!
YOUR WRISTS ARE TOO STIFF!
ONCE MORE, FROM THE BE-GIN-NING.
STAND UP, ELE-ONORE!
YOU MUST BECOME A PUPPET WIELDING A PUPPET.
ABANDON THE FEELING OF PAIN. CAST IT AWAY ALONG WITH YOUR NAME.
DOES THIS HURT, ELEO-NORE?
YOU ARE A PUP-PET.
CAST AWAY YOUR EMOTIONS AS WELL. GRIEF, JOY, EVERY-THING.

DESTROY THE DOLLS. EARTH RETURNS TO EARTH, AND PUPPET TO PUPPET.
THAT'S HORRIBLE ...
FOR MANY LONG YEARS AFTER THAT, I DID NOTHING BUT STUDY HOW TO CONTROL MARIONETTES, EVERY DAY.
BEFORE I KNEW IT, MY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS HAD VANISHED ...
AND I BECAME JUST LIKE A REAL PUPPET.
AND THEN, ONE DAY, WHEN I NO LONGER EVEN DOUBTED THAT I WAS ONE...
ELEONORE, THIS IS THE HEAD OF THE SAIGA FAMILY IN JAPAN. IT IS THEY WHO CONSTRUCT OUR MARIONETTES.
GREET HIM.
HE APPEARED BEFORE ME.

MY NAME IS SAIGA SHOUJI.
NO ...
IT'S A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, ELEONORE.
GRAND-PA...
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I MET SHOUJI-SAMA... YOUR GRANDFATHER.
CALL ME GRAND-PA.
YOU MUST PROTECT A CHILD BY THE NAME OF MASARU.
YES. AND YOUR GRAND-FATHER GAVE ME AN ORDER.

SO... HE KNEW ABOUT THEM, AND ABOUT THE AUTOMATA?
GRANDPA WAS... THE ONE WHO BUILT MARIONETTES FOR THE SHIROGANE ...
YOU WON'T BE A PUPPET ANY LONGER... SHIROGANE ...
IF YOU DO THAT, YOU WILL BECOME HUMAN.


SHI-RO-GANE ...
THIS SEEMS REALLY BIG, SOMEHOW... THERE'S THIS ENORMOUS KARAKURI MECHANISM AT WORK HERE.
I WONDER THE SAME THING, YOUNG MASTER ...

WHY DID GRANDPA BRING YOU AND ME TO-GETHER?
SO THEN, WHERE DO I COME IN?

AM I JUST ONE MORE GEAR IN THAT HUGE KARAKURI MECHANISM?
AND GRANDPA ...

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

As a reminder, "doll" and "puppet" have different connotations in English, but in the Japanese text they are the same word, *ningyou* (人形 *person + shape*)

 # pg. 6: The kanji that are given the reading Automata (オートマータ) are 自動人形 (*self + moving + doll*) Guy uses the characters for *self* and *moving* in a longer clause before putting them together, calling the Automata 自分で動く 自動人形 (*jibun de ugoku jidou-ningyou*)

 # pg. 7: When Shirogane mentions turning seven, she's referring to her physical age, not the number of years she's lived

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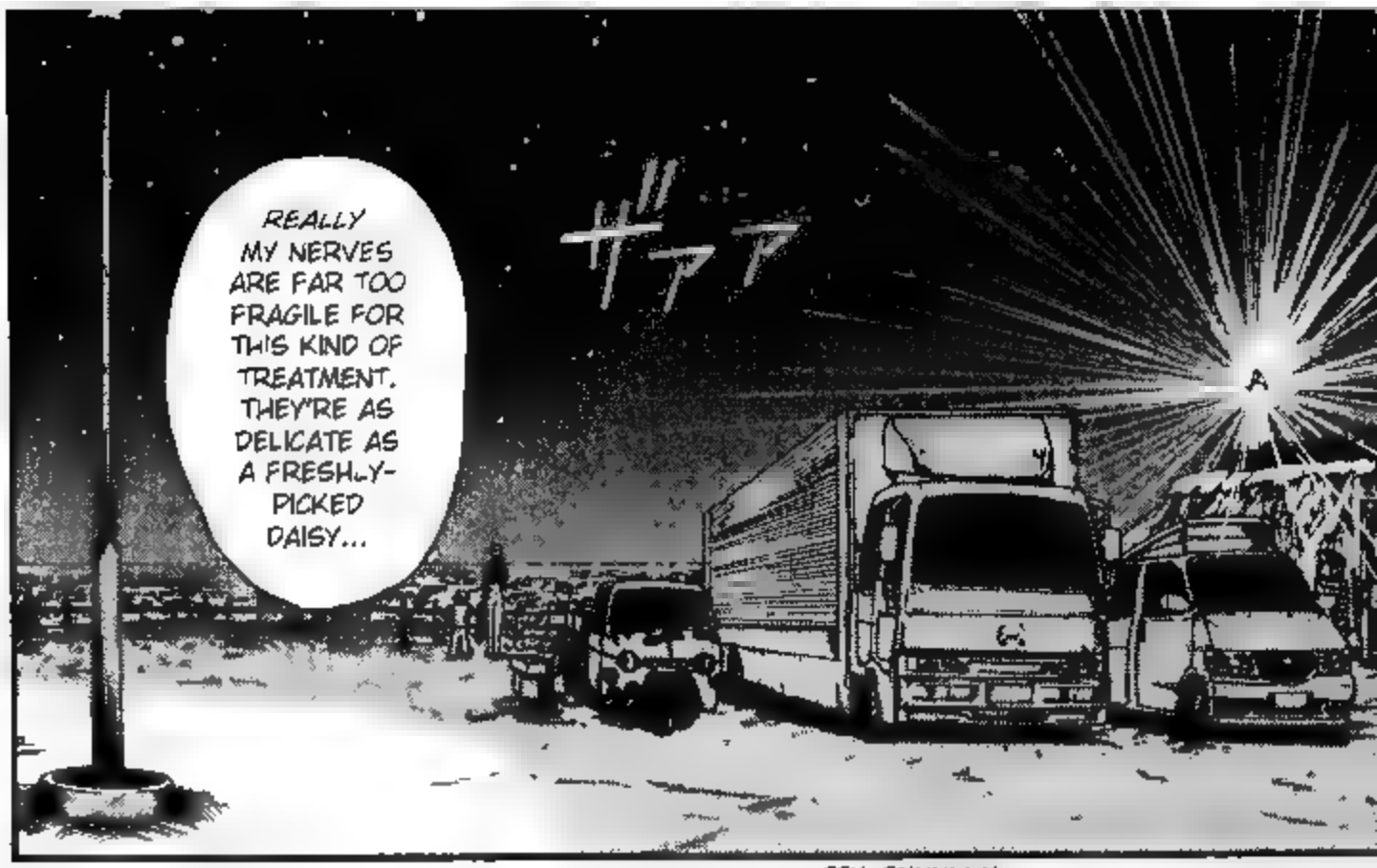
Circus~Final Act

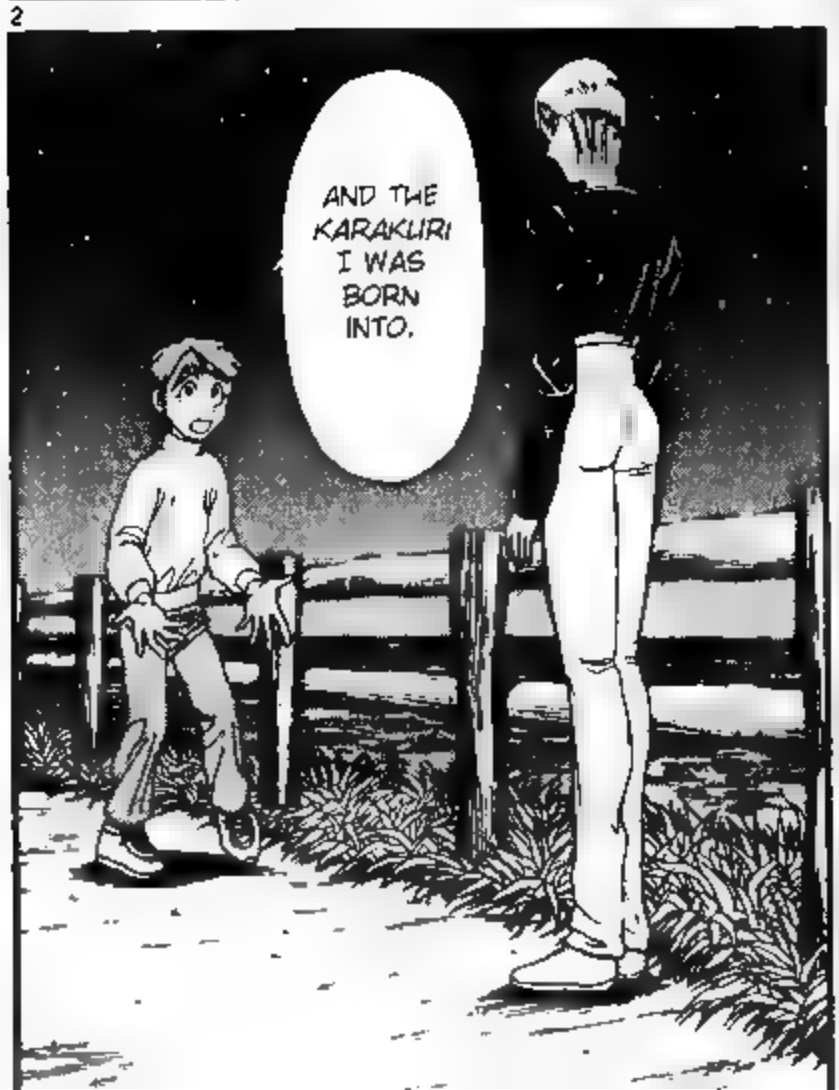
Act 1
Opening Bell

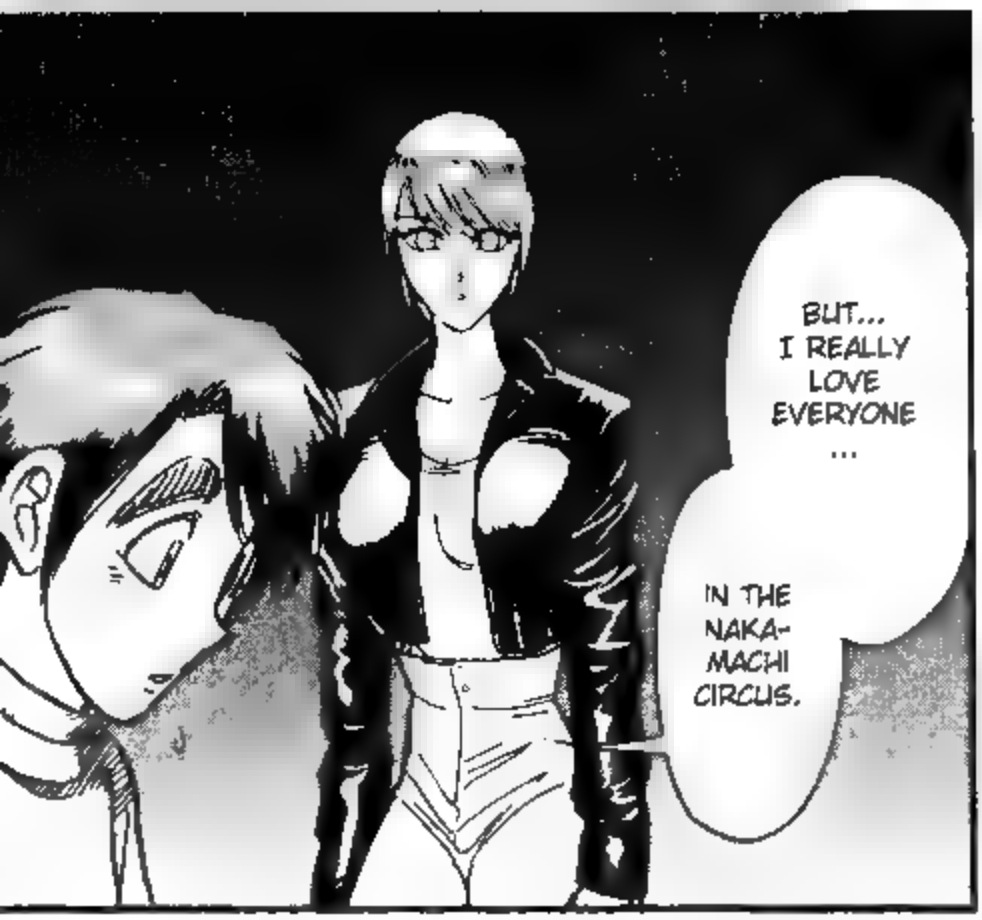

REALLY MY NERVES ARE FAR TOO FRAGILE FOR THIS KIND OF TREATMENT. THEY'RE AS DELICATE AS A FRESHLY-PICKED DAISY...
A

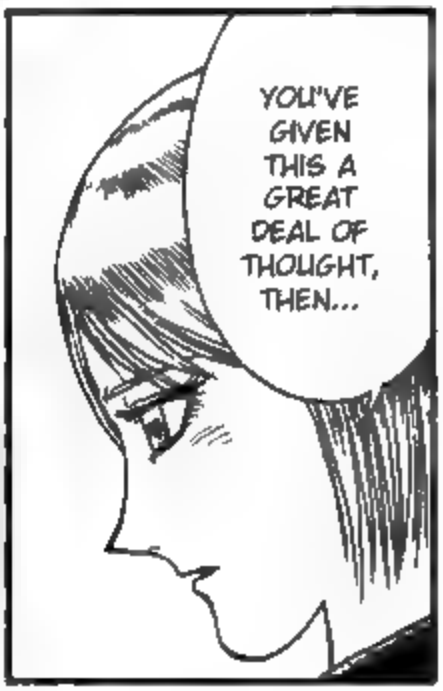
THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF.
THAT'S WHY I WANT TO LEARN...

SFX: SNNNNK
SIGH..

2


AND THE KARAKURI I WAS BORN INTO.


BUT... I REALLY LOVE EVERYONE ...
IN THE NAKA-MACHI CIRCUS.


YOU'VE GIVEN THIS A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT, THEN...

I'VE EVEN STARTED TO DREAM OF BEING PART OF THE CIRCUS WITH THEM.

I STARTED OUT THINKING THEY WERE SCARY, EVERY TIME, BUT THEY AREN'T AT ALL.

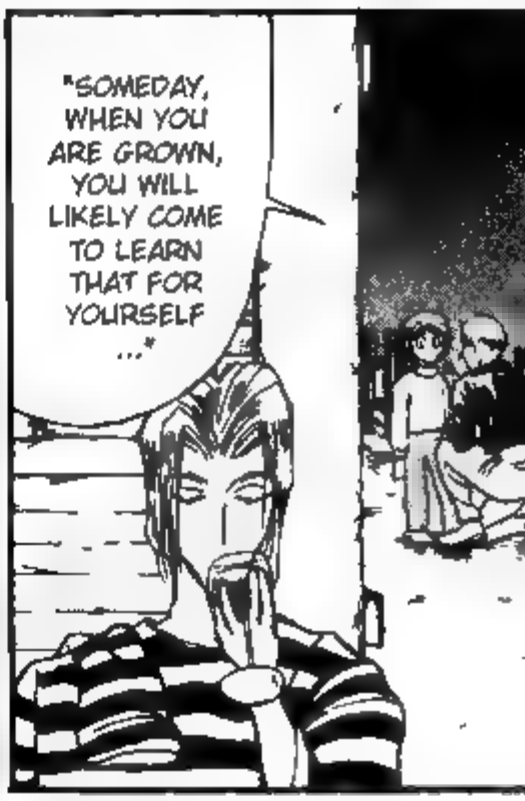
WAIT FOR A SIGN ...

AND... THAT'D BE SO HARD TO DO ...
I'M SURE I'LL HAVE TO SAY GOODBYE TO THEM.
BUT IF I WANT TO LEARN THE SECRETS OF MY OWN EX-ISTENCE ...

HUH?
LONG AGO, I ASKED MAITRE GUY ABOUT OUR MARIONETTES, ARLEQUIN AND OLYMPIA.
THIS IS WHAT HE TOLD ME WHEN I INQUIRED ABOUT THE MYSTERY OF THE ARMS TORN FROM BOTH THEIR BODIES.

A PORTENT THAT WILL ALERT YOU BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENS.
THERE WILL BE A SIGN ...

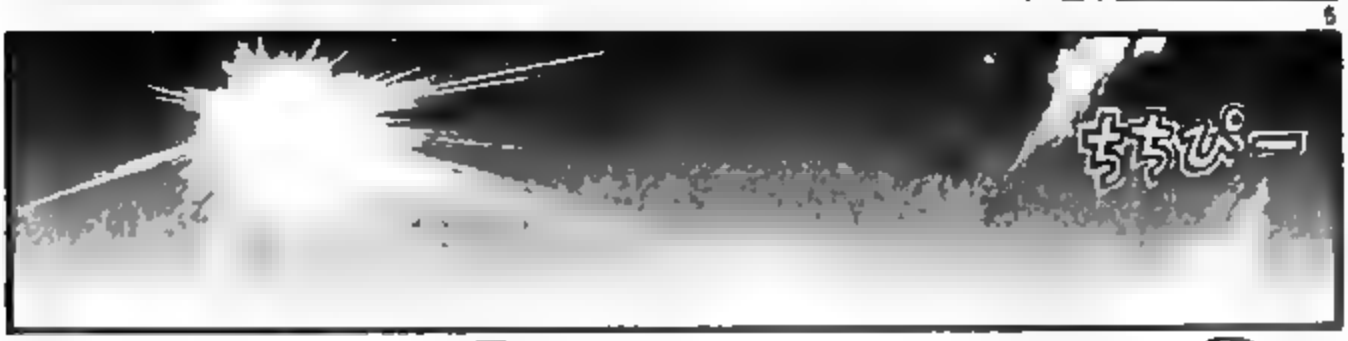
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "WHEN I AM GROWN" ...?


"SOMEDAY, WHEN YOU ARE GROWN, YOU WILL LIKELY COME TO LEARN THAT FOR YOURSELF ...."

TO WAIT ...?
GUY-SAN SAID ...

YOU WILL HAVE TO CONFRONT THE SECRETS SURROUNDING YOURSELF AND ARLEQUIN. UNTIL THEN, HOWEVER...
AND WHEN THAT PORTENT COMES, WHETHER YOU WILL OR NO...

A PORTENT HUH ?
AND UNTIL IT DOES, LET US WAIT.
YES. AND SO, YOUNG MASTER, SOME FORM OF SIGN WILL SURELY COME FOR YOU AS WELL.


ちちぴー

MOR-N'N'.
MM-HUH
GOOD MOR-NING!
ONCE IT GETS COLD, LIVIN' OUTTA THESE CARS IS GONNA GET ROUGH!
YEAH, BUT IT'S GONNA BE WINTER SOON, Y'KNOW

わい

YOU'RE A BIT THICK, LIESE ...

OH, MY GOODNESS! ISN'T THAT A MAILBOX? WAS I MISTAKEN?

Oh, no!

LIESE-SAN, YOU'VE BEEN PUTTING LOVE LETTERS IN SOMEONE'S SHOE LOCKER, HAVEN'T YOU?

わい

I MADE SOME FRIENDS!

わい

HOW'S SCHOOL TREATING YOU, MASARU?

AHHH, GOD, RICH PEOPLE ARE THE WORST!

OH, BARF!

ザ・お宅拝見!!

LET'S TAKE A LITTLE PEEK AT THE HOME OF A MILLIONAIRE!

ちちんぷいぷう ちちんぷいぷう

SIGN: -THE- HOME INSPECTION'!

SFX: CHALA CHINPOLO PINPOLO~

AND THAT'D BE WHY YA WENT BANKRUPT, WOULDN'T IT?!

OH, I USED TO LIVE JUST LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW! BACK WHEN I WAS RUNNING THE STRAW CIRCUS!

TCH... SO THERE'S STILL PEOPLE LIVIN' IT UP IN THE MIDST OF THIS RECESSION ...!

Th- three mil-

S- seven mil-

BUT THIS VASE HERE WAS 7 MILLION. WAHAHAHA!

OH, THIS? IT WAS NOTHING MUCH MAYBE AROUND 3 MILLION YEN.

AH, HEY! NAOTA, YOU DICKWEED, YOU GOT THOSE OUTTA SOMEONE ELSE'S WALLET!
COMP-LETELY CHANGES PERSO-NALITY ...!!
you don't have to be so blunt about it!
THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT! MONEY S A MAGICAL SUBSTANCE! IN THE PRESENCE OF MONEY, EVEN A VIRTUOUS, UPSTANDING MAN SUCH AS MYSELF...
GROWNUPS ARE AWFUL. THEY GO CRAZY OVER THE STUFF.
MONEY THIS, MONEY THAT. IT'S ALL SO DUMB.
THOSE TEN THOUSAND YEN BILLS LOOK AWFUL FAMILIAR TO ME!
Huh ...?
WHERE'S YOUR PROOF?!
SFX: KAPOW
GRAND-PA!
That hurt!
THE FOOD YOU EAT AND THE CLOTHES YOU WEAR ARE ALL BOUGHT WITH MONEY! YOU COULDN'T SURVIVE WITHOUT MONEY!
RYOUKO, YOU FOOOOL!

DON'T RUN YOUR SPOILED LITTLE MOUTH UNTIL YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT'S LIKE!
WE PERFORMERS LIVE THROUGH TIMES WHEN WE DON'T EVEN HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO BUY RICE.
Um...
Uh..
AND THE ONE WHO WORKS HARD TO EARN ALL THAT MONEY IS YOUR FATHER! GET THAT THROUGH YOUR HEAD BEFORE YOU START ACTING SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!
EXCUSE ME!! DON'T YOU HIT ME!!
DON'T GET SMART WITH ME!
HITTING YOUR GRANDDAUGHTER ON THE HEAD IS CALLED ABUSE THESE DAYS!
EXCUSE ME! THIS ISN'T YE OLDEN TIMES ANYMORE, GRANDPA!
We've never been through that either.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO, SINCE NAKAMACHI-SAN WILL NOT ACCEPT ANY HELP FROM US.
WE BOTH HAVE OUR OWN MONEY, THOUGH, LIESE.
8
But.. it's much more fun eating with the others
I'M HAVING DINNER AT A RESTAURANT IN TOWN TONIGHT.
WHAT'S THAT NOW?! DON'T BE SILLY, LIESE. WHO SAID ANYTHING ABOUT GIVING IT TO NAKAMACHI? SPEND YOUR MONEY ON YOURSELF!
THE SMALL CIRCUS THAT MY MOTHER AND SISTER AND I WERE IN BEFORE WE MOVED TO THE BIG ONE WAS QUITE POOR AS WE...
I SUPPOSE TRAVELING PERFORMERS NEVER HAVE MUCH MONEY NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO IN THE WORLD.

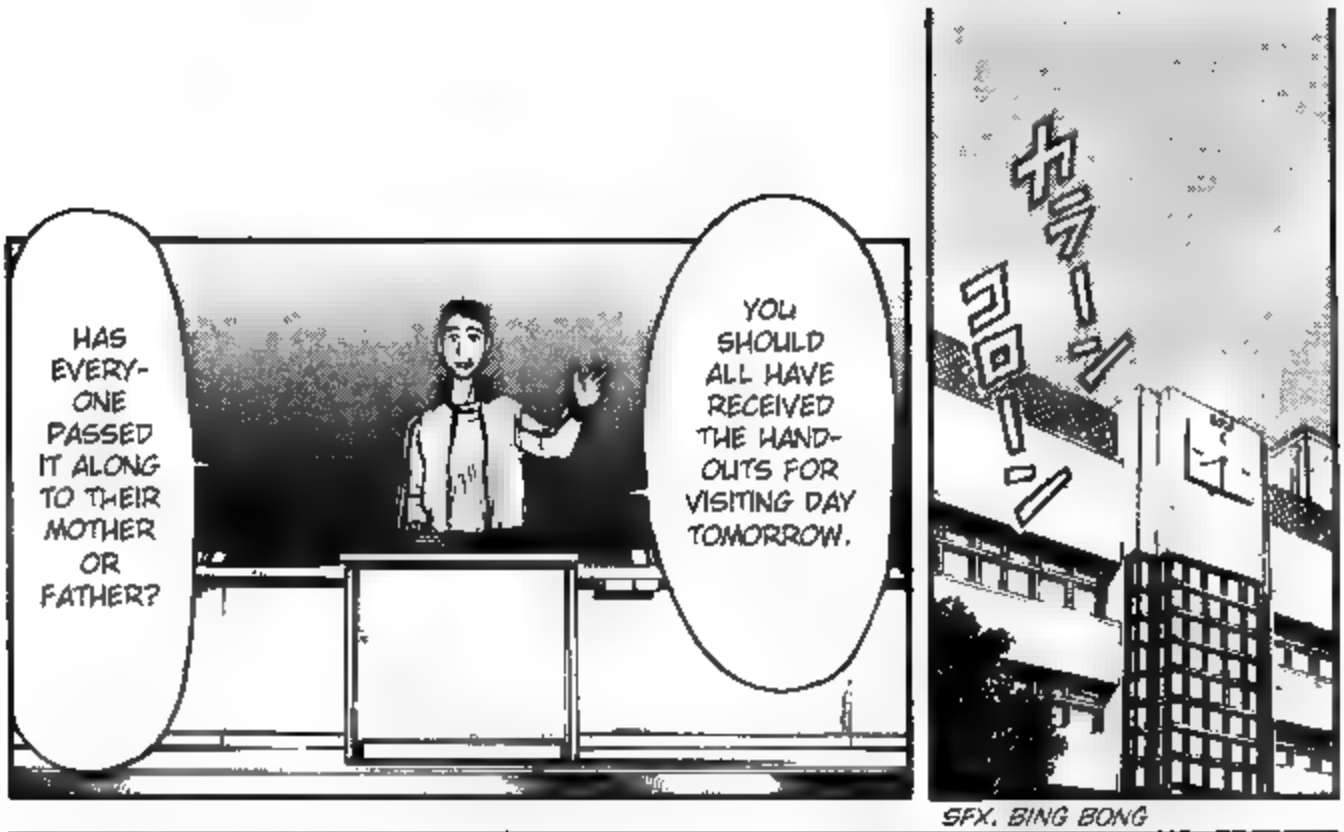
All r ght I get t I m sorry
WE'VE GOT A MEMBER OF THE BOURGEOISIE OVER HERE, FOLKS! AN ENEMY OF THE WORKING CLASS!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!! THIS IS HOW THE RICH THINK!! ALWAYS OUT FOR GOOD OLD NUMBER ONE!!

OH, EXCUSE ME. THIS IS NOTHING YOU NEED TO TROUBLE YOURSELF OVER, MASARU.
BACK WHEN I RAN THE OLD NAKAMACHI CIRCUS UNDER, THE MAIN CAUSE WAS ALL UR RICH PATRONS PULLING OUT THEIR SUPPORT...
YOU ALWAYS WANT TO HAVE MONEY, BUT... CAN'T SAY I'M TOO FOND OF RICH FOLK MYSELF.

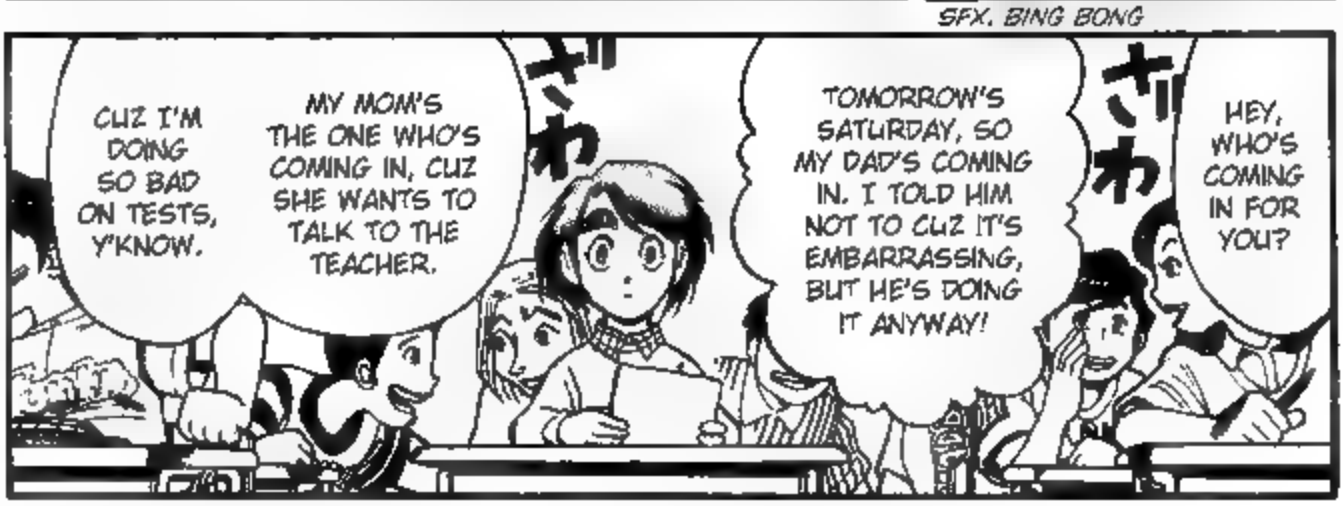
R-RIGHT..
DO NOT LET THIS CONCERN YOU TOO MUCH, YOUNG MASTER.

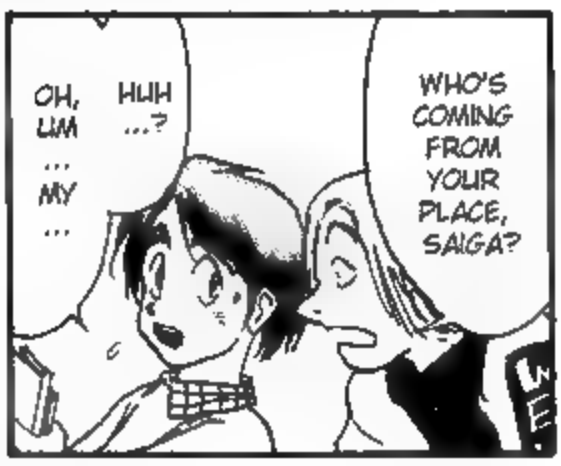
SHIROGANE-SAN, MASARU-SAN, LET US BE AFTER SCHOOL NOW...

IF I TOLD THEM THAT... I'M RICH ...
THEY'D ALL REALLY HATE ME...


HAS EVERY-ONE PASSED IT ALONG TO THEIR MOTHER OR FATHER?
YOU SHOULD ALL HAVE RECEIVED THE HAND-OUTS FOR VISITING DAY TOMORROW.
カラーン コローン

SFX. BING BONG


CUZ I'M DOING SO BAD ON TESTS, Y'KNOW.
MY MOM'S THE ONE WHO'S COMING IN, CUZ SHE WANTS TO TALK TO THE TEACHER.
TOMORROW'S SATURDAY, SO MY DAD'S COMING IN. I TOLD HIM NOT TO CUZ IT'S EMBARRASSING, BUT HE'S DOING IT ANYWAY!
HEY, WHO'S COMING IN FOR YOU?
さわ
さわ



SAME AS USUAL... EVEN WHEN MOM WAS ALIVE, SHE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS WORKING, SO VISITING DAY ALWAYS TURNED OUT LIKE THIS.

YOUNG MASTER!
HOW FORTUNATE THAT YOU ARE STILL HERE!
Saiga you dope you are so clueless
Kekeke!!
Quit it!
I AM DEEPLY INDEBTED TO YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS. THOUGH THIS WILL BE A SHORT ACQUAINTANCE, I AM PLEASED TO MEET YOU
Um hey
SHIROGANE, WHAT'S GOING ON?!
YOUNG MASTER, PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL!
Hum?
She's a foreigner! Masaru's big sister is a foreigner!
RYOUKO-SAN HAS TRANSFERRED INTO A DIFFERENT CLASS IN YOUR SCHOOL, AND SHE INFORMED ME OF THIS FACT. I ALSO ASKED THE HOMEROOM TEACHER FOR A DETAILED EXPLANATION JUST NOW.
OH ...
TOMORROW IS "VISITING DAY", IS IT NOT?!

...SO...
ARE YOU COMING IN?
BUT YOU REALLY MUST PROPERLY INFORM ME OF SUCH THINGS...
PERHAPS YOU FORGOT TO RELAY TO ME THE PRINTED MATERIAL REGARDING THE EVENT.
I'M SORRY, THOUGH...
...THAT'S NOT IT. .
YOU... DO NOT WANT ME TO COME?
SH RO-GANE, YOU'RE MISUNDER-STANDING SOMETHING HERE!!
NATU-RALLY!
I HAVE EVEN PUR-CHASED A SPECIAL OUTFIT FOR THE OCCASION.
THE REASON I DIDN'T GIVE YOU THE HANDOUT... WASN'T BECAUSE I FORGOT.
はい はい はい!

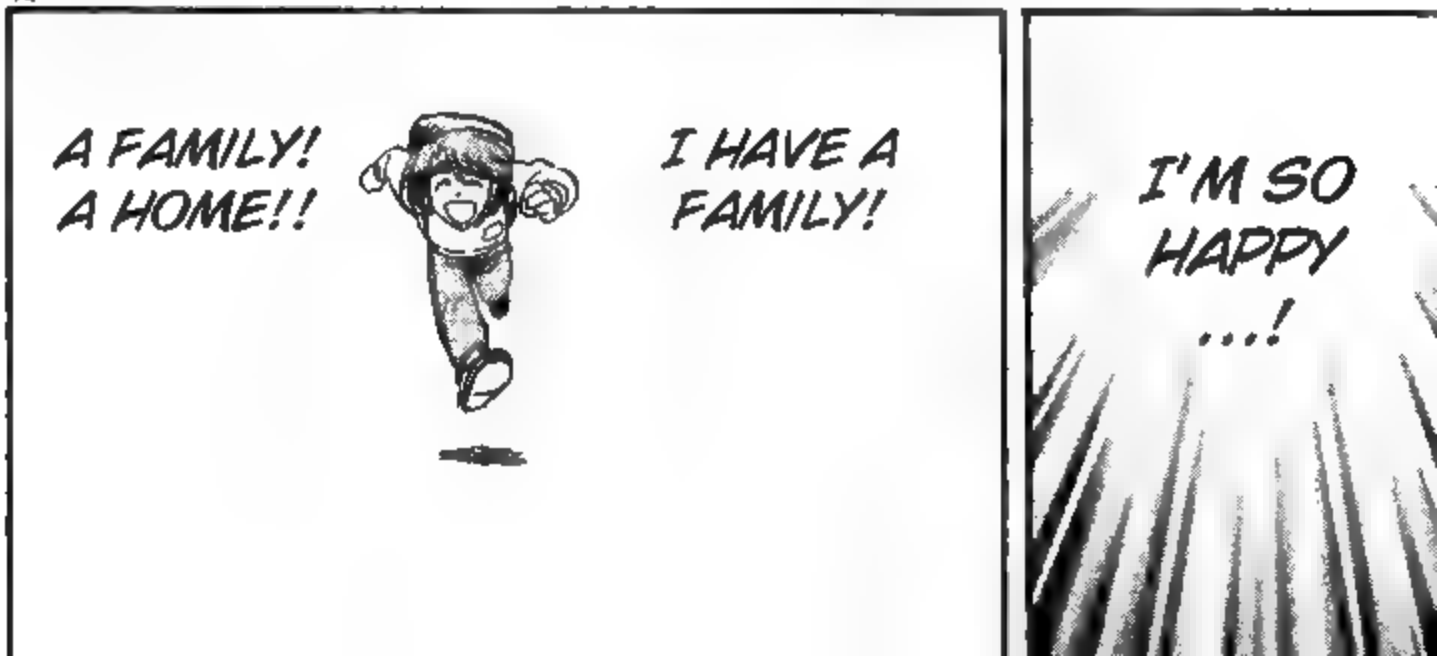
SFX: INTENSE ENERGY

PARDON THE IN-TRUSION, YOUNG MASTER... BUT IS THERE SOMETHING FRIGHT-ENING YOU?
...NO.
CERTAINLY NOT! MY MISSION IS TO SERVE YOU, YOUNG MASTER ...!
SO...
...BUT, I MEAN, YOU HAVE SCHOOL TOO, DON'T YOU? YOU'RE BUSY, RIGHT?
ぴい

NO, I...
AS IF YOU ARE MAKING EXCUSES OR APOLOGIZING, IT GIVES ME THE FEELING THAT YOU ARE FRIGHTENED OF SOMETHING.
WHEN-EVER YOU BEHAVE THIS WAY TOWARD ME...
I'M NOT...
WHAT ...?
HE SAID THAT A CIRCUS IS LIKE A FAMILY ...
RING-MASTER NAKAMACHI TOLD ME SOMETHING ABOUT CIRCUSES IN JAPAN.
I NO LONGER CONSIDER THIS A MISSION ...
I WOULD LIKE TO BE YOUR FAMILY.
PLEASE... TELL ME EVERY-THING.
I DO NOT KNOW MUCH ABOUT FAMILIES, BUT... A FAMILY IS A PLACE WHERE YOU MAY DISCUSS ANYTHING, WITHOUT FEAR, IS IT NOT?

LET'S GO, SHIROGANE!

WE'RE GOING HOME!
HOME!
YOUNG MASTER ...

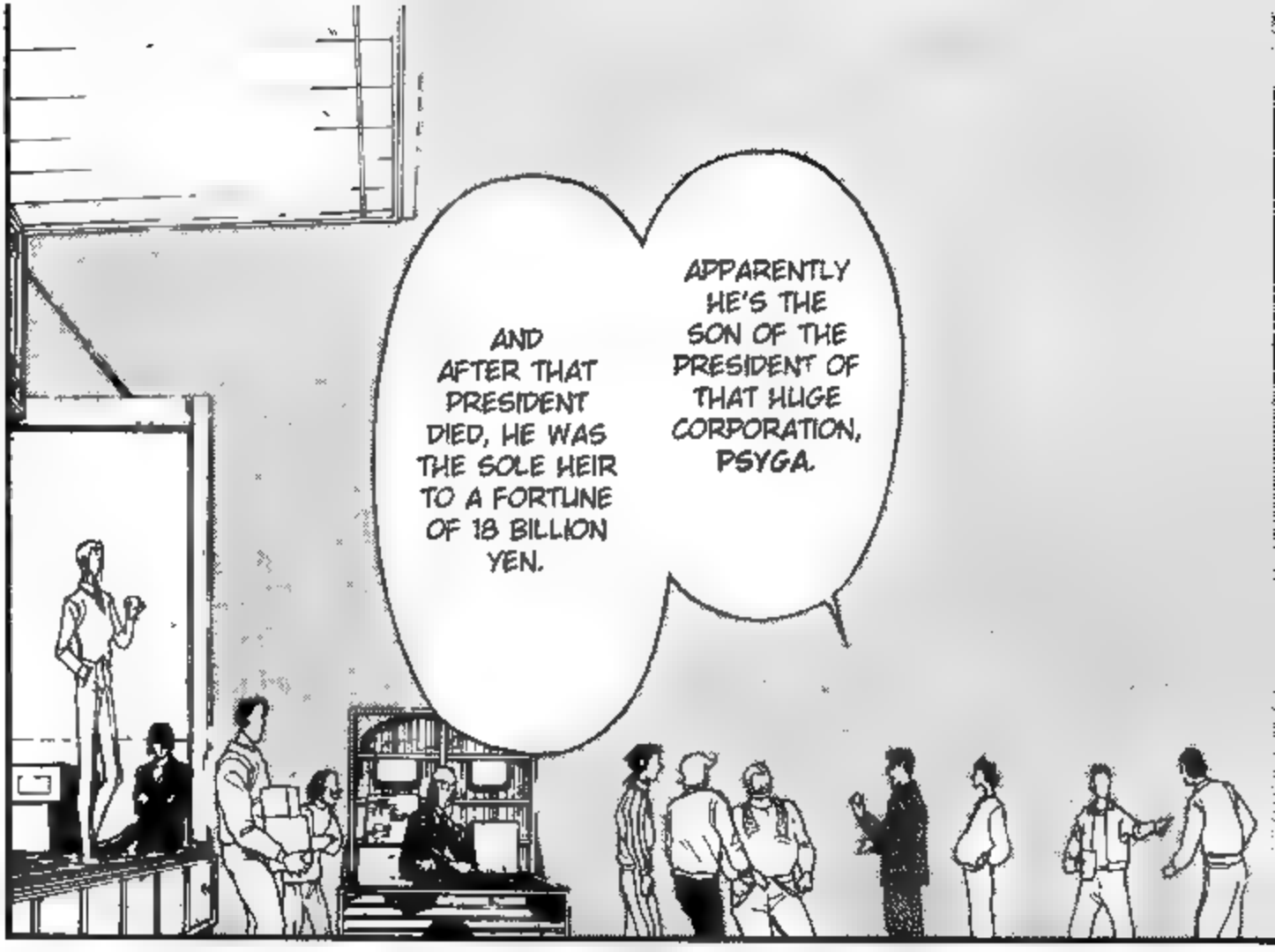

A FAMILY! A HOME!!
I HAVE A FAMILY!
I'M SO HAPPY ...!

AS A BIG, LOUD FAMILY, FOREVER AND EVER...!

TOGETHER WITH EVERYONE ...

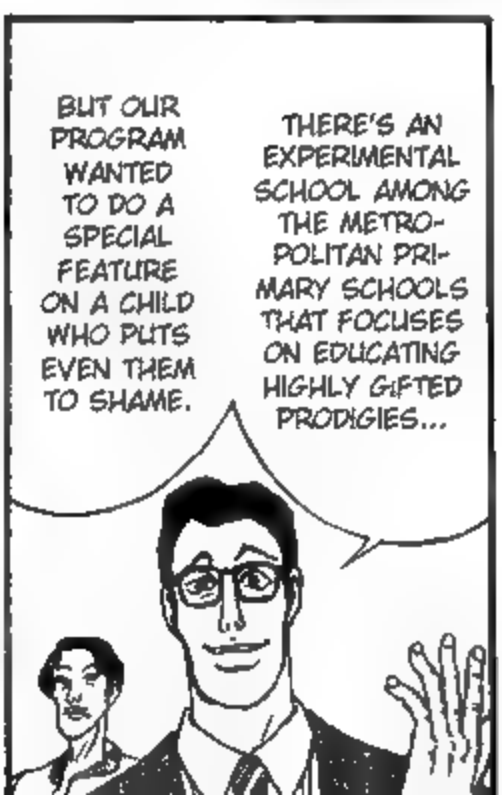
I CAN JUST STAY LIKE THIS FOREVER ...!

SO?
THIS BOY IN YOUR CIRCUS, SAIGA MASARU ...
WELL, OUR STATION IS RUNNING A PROGRAM AT THE MOMENT ENTITLED SUPER KIDS COLLECTION.
OH, YEAH. THE ONE WITH THE SPECIAL FEATURES ABOUT GIFTED KIDS AND THEIR UP-BRINGING.
WHAT'S A TV PROGRAM WANT WITH MASARU?
WHASSAT? TELEVISION PROGRAM?

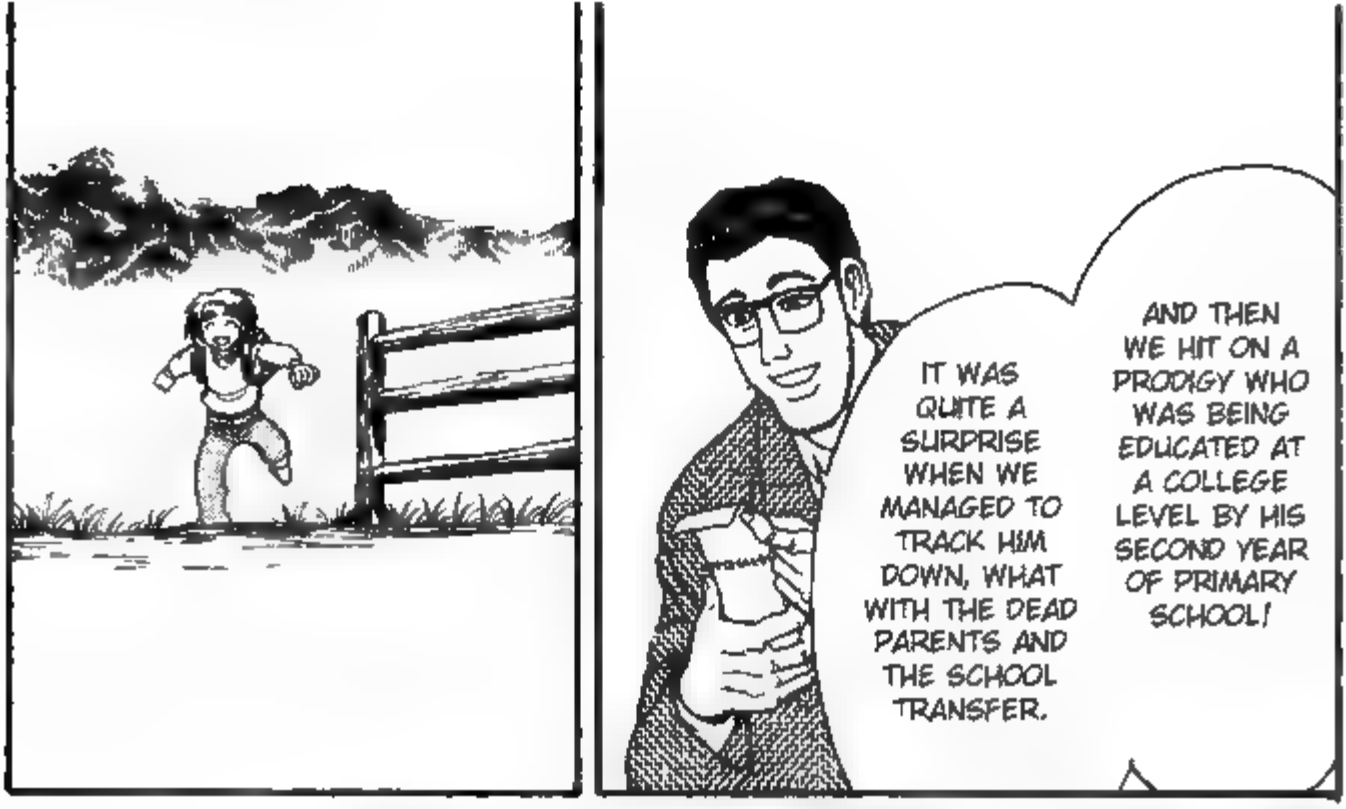

APPARENTLY HE'S THE SON OF THE PRESIDENT OF THAT HUGE CORPORATION, PSYGA.
AND AFTER THAT PRESIDENT DIED, HE WAS THE SOLE HEIR TO A FORTUNE OF 18 BILLION YEN.

NO WAY
M-MASARU?

NEVER NEEDS TO SHOW UP AT ALL...
THAT "PORTENT" THING...


BUT OUR PROGRAM WANTED TO DO A SPECIAL FEATURE ON A CHILD WHO PUTS EVEN THEM TO SHAME.
THERE'S AN EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL AMONG THE METROPOLITAN PRIMARY SCHOOLS THAT FOCUSES ON EDUCATING HIGHLY GIFTED PRODIGIES...

I CAN GO ON LIKE THIS FOREVER.


IT WAS QUITE A SURPRISE WHEN WE MANAGED TO TRACK HIM DOWN, WHAT WITH THE DEAD PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL TRANSFER.
AND THEN WE HIT ON A PRODIGY WHO WAS BEING EDUCATED AT A COLLEGE LEVEL BY HIS SECOND YEAR OF PRIMARY SCHOOL!

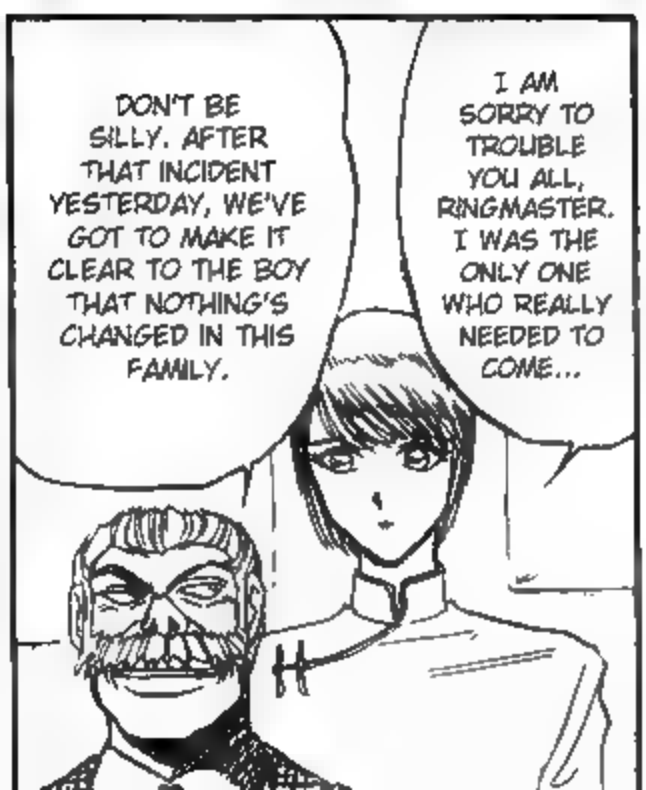
JUST WHAT OUR SHOW IS LOOKING FOR!
WHAT AN EMBAR-RASSMENT OF GOOD LUCK!
AND THE HEIR TO 18 BILLION ON TOP OF THAT!
JUST IMAGINE, A CHILD PRODIGY ...

MUCH SOONER THAN I HAD EXPECTED...
MY "SIGN" CAME...

SFX: WHISPERING

SIGN: YEAR 5, CLASS 2

ざわ
五年
THAT FOOL HAD BETTER NOT BE LETTING YESTERDAY WORRY HIM.
HEY, I'VE BEEN PREPPING FOR THIS SINCE LAST WEEK, SINCE HE DIDN'T SAY A WORD ABOUT IT.
BRO, YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT INTRODUCED AS "MASARU'S BIG BROTHER"! THAT IS SO UNFAIR!
WHY DID WE ALL SHOW UP...?!
I'M A LITTLE MOVED OVER HERE...
What is with that hair?
Shh! Can't ou be + ?
I don't even need to be here
ざわ


DON'T BE SILLY. AFTER THAT INCIDENT YESTERDAY, WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT CLEAR TO THE BOY THAT NOTHING'S CHANGED IN THIS FAMILY.
I AM SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU ALL, RINGMASTER. I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY NEEDED TO COME...

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

 # pg. 18: Parents are also allowed to move around the school on *Sankanbi* (visiting/observation day), so Ubukata being in Masaru's class doesn't mean he's skipping out on Ryouko's

I'll be visiting family next week, so there may not be a chapter out on the 13th (This is the exact middle of the series, as well as the 100th chapter I've translated, thank you all for sticking with me)

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第2幕 ACT 2
勝、はじまりの場所へ
MASARU RETURNS TO THE STARTING POINT

ガヤ ガヤ……

ガヤ
OH...? IS THIS HOW A RUNAWAY BOY PREPARES TO LEAVE HIS HOME?

そお

2

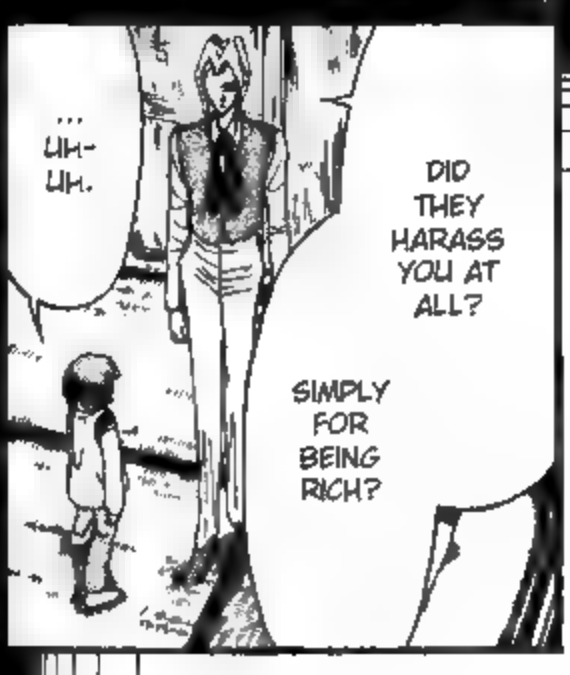
G-... GUY-SAN!

WITHOUT SO MUCH AS SAYING GOODBYE ...
THE OTHERS HAVE ALL GONE TO YOUR SCHOOL.
TO ATTEND THIS "VISITING DAY" OF YOURS...
WHERE ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO INSTEAD?
...DON'T TRY TO STOP ME. I'VE MADE UP MY MIND.
THAT'S RIGHT, HERE HE IS! AFTER THE FORTUNE THIS LAD INHERITED...
HE MUST BE THE HAPPIEST LITTLE WONDER BOY AROUND!
3
HEY, GET THE CAMERA OVER HERE.
UH... UM...
SO, HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE ALL THAT MONEY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE?
YOU CAN BUY ALL THE TOYS AND GAMES YOU WANT, RIGHT?
ISN'T THAT JUST GRAND? THE WORLD'S YOUR OYSTER FROM HERE ON OUT, EH?
I... I DON'T REALLY WANT ANYTHING MUCH ..
AS LONG AS I CAN BE IN THE CIRCUS WITH EVERYONE HERE...
CIRCUS? THE CIRCUS, HE SAYS! HA HA HA!
THAT'S A NEW ONE ON ME! IN THAT CASE, YOU'D THINK YOU COULD BUY THEM A PLACE TO STAY AT THE VERY LEAST.

?
ぽん
STINGY THAN ONE MIGHT EXPECT, NO?
YOU'RE A LITTLE MORE.
ぽん
GOOD-NESS ...
YOU CER-TAINLY ARE A SPIRITED ONE.
H-HOW DARE YOU?!
I'LL SEE YOU THIRD-RATE CARNIES IN COURT

YEE-IKES ...!
AND DON'T EVER COME BACK.
BUT, YOU KNOW, THIS VIDEO YOU'VE WORKED SO HARD TO CAPTURE IS AIMED AT CHILDREN. IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO EXPOSE THEM TO COARSE LANGUAGE ...
I THINK YOU'D BETTER LEAVE IT WITH ME.

Hm? Did something happen?


... UH-UH.
DID THEY HARASS YOU AT ALL?
SIMPLY FOR BEING RICH?

コッチ カッチ
コッチ
...I'M SORRY ...
GOOD NIGHT.
NIGHT ...
'KAAY
Hup two. go
WELL, WE CAN HEAR THE STORY WHENEVER WE WANT FROM MASARU OR SHIROGANE ...
SO WHY DON'T WE MAKE IT TODAY'S BUSINESS TO GET SOME REST.

I LIED TO THEM.
BUT... HOW DID I TREAT HIM AND THE OTHERS ...?
N-NAKA-MACHI-SAN SAID... THAT HE THOUGHT OF ME AS FAMILY.

YOUR WEAKNESS, MASARU-KUN, IS THAT YOU ARE FAR TOO INTEL-LIGENT FOR ONE WHO REMAINS A MERE CHILD
AND SO YOU HAVE AN OVER-DEVELOPED SENSE...
OF WHEN YOU NEED
WHA-..
AND SO YOU MUST LEAVE, IS THAT IT?
HMPH. HOW CHILDISH.
!
TO RUN AWAY.

TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR-SELF.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD SHIROGANE THAT THERE'LL BE A SIGN WHEN THE TIME COMES ...
I AM NOT TRYING TO ES-CAPE!
WH-WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!

I AM NOT RUNNING AWAY! I'M NOT!
I'M GOING OFF TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT MYSELF!
MY LIES GETTING EXPOSED MUST BE THAT SIGN.
IN THAT CASE, LET ME OFFER YOU SOMETHING IN PLACE OF FAREWELL.
THE STARTING POINT...?
YOU SHOULD HEAD FOR THE STARTING POINT... THE PLACE WHERE YOU BECAME YOUR CURRENT SELF.
THAT PLACE IS AS FAR AS YOU NEED TO RUN.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INTELLIGENT.

I HATE YOU, GUY-SAN!
SHUT UP!

BE BRAVE... YOUNG BOY.
Du courage…

AND I RAN OFF WITHOUT ANY LEADS ON THE TRUTH...
THE WIND'S SO COLD ...
ヒュウウ
I BET SHI-ROGANE'S GONNA BE ANGRY.. SO ARE NAKAMA-CHI-SAN AND THE OTHERS

I'M ALL ALONE' THERE S NOTHING I CAN DO'
I CAN T TH S AFTER AL

I... I...!
ピポ

HEY, MASARU.

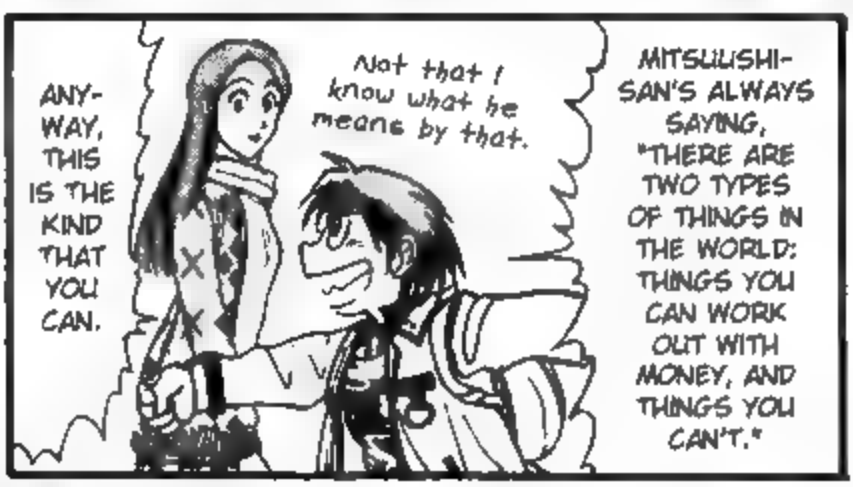
SFX: GRIT

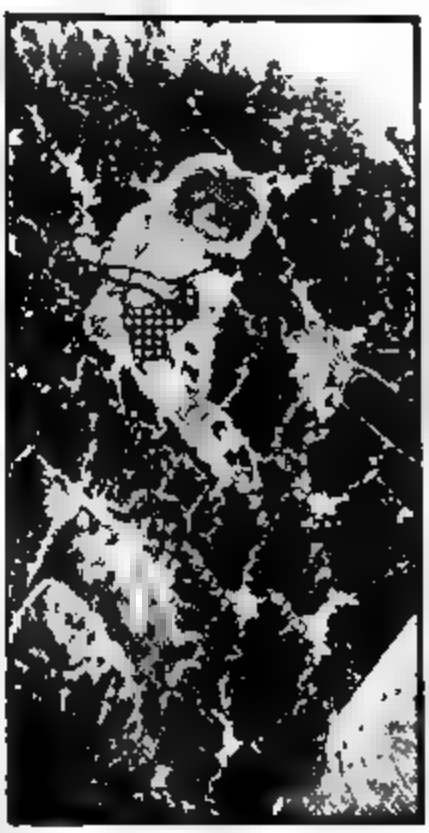
11

SFX: DEEP BREATH

I GAVE 1 BILLION TO ASHIHANA-SAN, BUT ...
THERE'S STILL 17 BILLION LEFT!
I'VE GOT MONEY ON MY SIDE! 17 BILLION YEN!

I... PAID ASHIHANA-SAN A BILLION YEN.
.....!
GASP


ANY-WAY, THIS IS THE KIND THAT YOU CAN.
Not that I know what he means by that.
MITSUUSHI-SAN'S ALWAYS SAYING, "THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF THINGS IN THE WORLD: THINGS YOU CAN WORK OUT WITH MONEY, AND THINGS YOU CAN'T."



THE PLACE... WHERE I BECAME MYSELF?

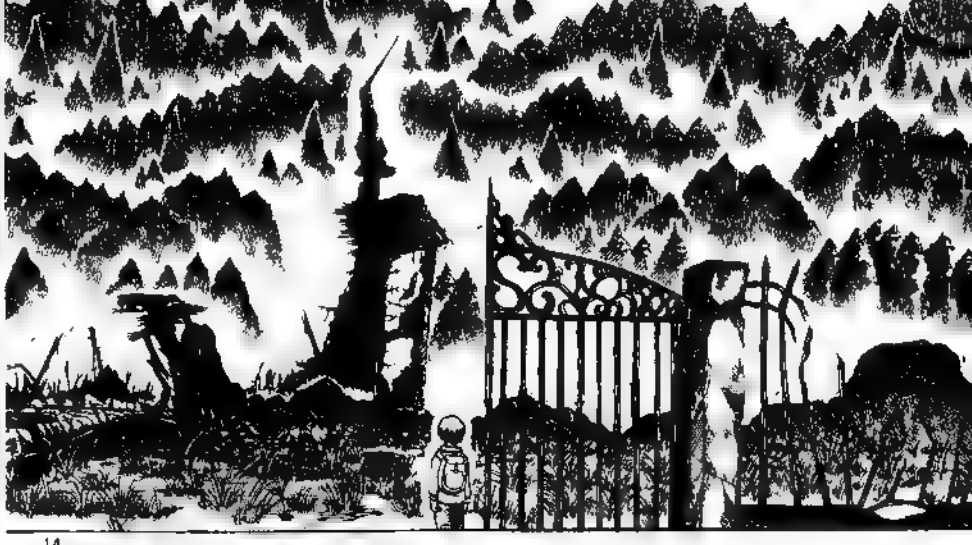
I KNOW WHERE THAT WAS.

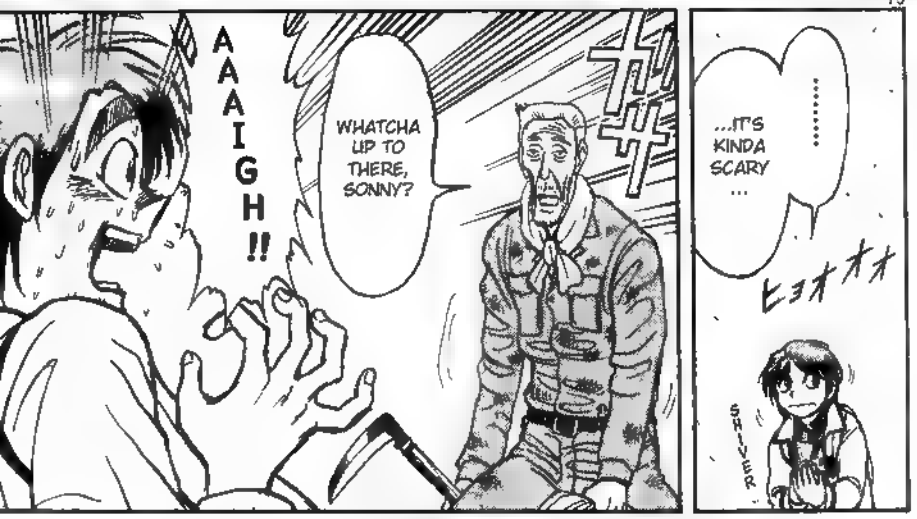
I BROUGHT YOU FROM NAGOYA LIKE Y'ASKED, BUT IT'LL BE NIGHT SOON, Y'KNOW.
SURE Y'WANT ME TO LEAVE YOU HERE, SON?

ブォォォ

WELL, GOOD-BYE THEN...
YES, I'M FINE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR.
627

ボボボボ




AAAIGH!!
WHATCHA UP TO THERE, SONNY?
……
…IT'S KINDA SCARY …
ヒョオオオ
ゼーハー

THOUGH TH' WHOLE PLACE BURNED TO THE GROUND IN A BIG FIRE THIS PAST SPRING.
I'M TH' CARE-TAKER 'ROUND THESE PARTS.
HAHAHA, SORRY FOR SCARIN' YA.
しゃがが

THE PLACE WHERE …
THE ASSASSINS HIRED BY MY SIBLINGS FOUGHT THE PUPPETEERS THAT UNCLE ZENJI HIRED.

THE KARAKURI MANSION OF KARUI-ZAWA…
THE PROPERTY THAT USED TO BELONG TO MY FATHER.

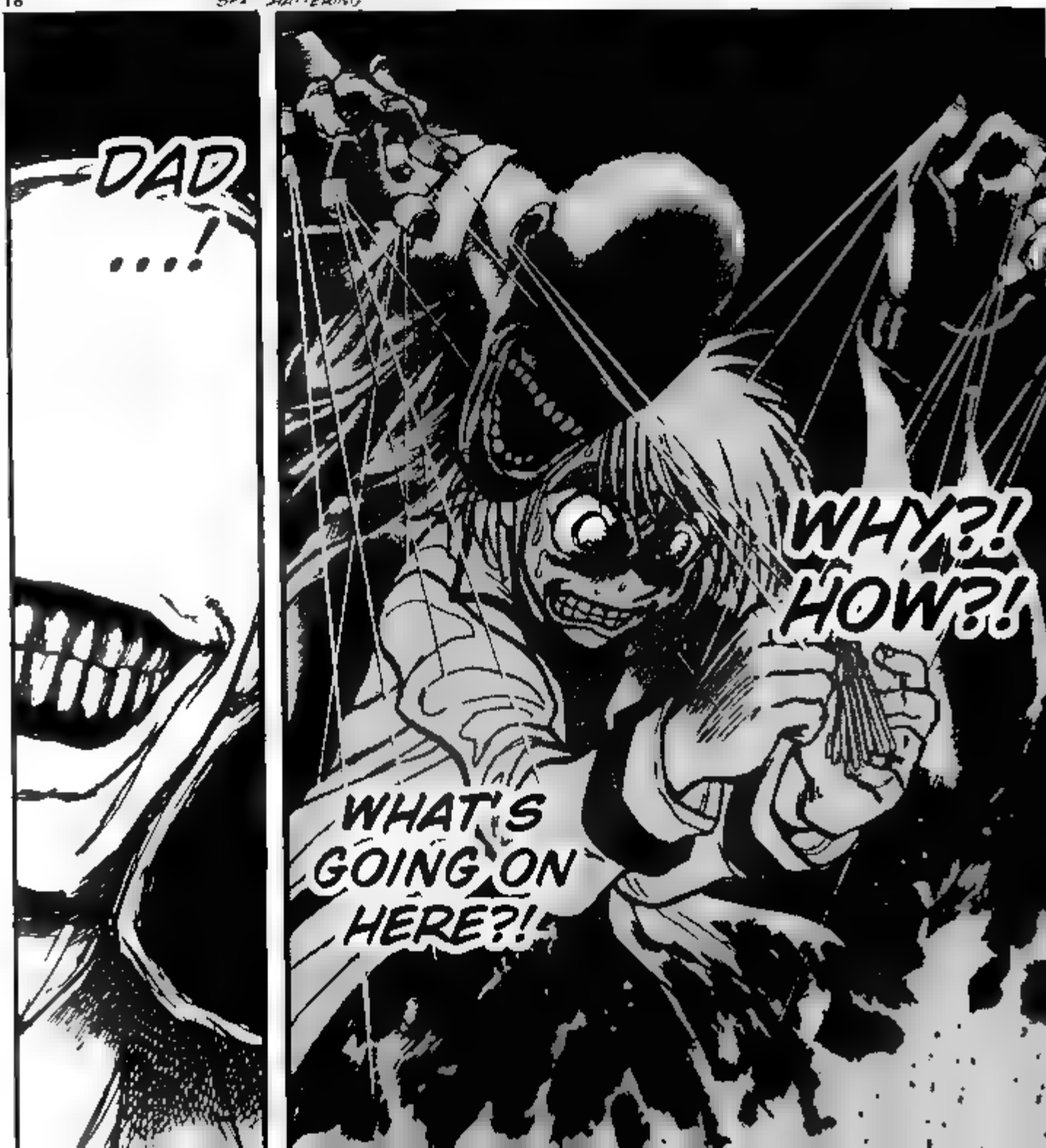
THE MANSION COLLAPSED IN THE END… THERE'S JUST BURNED RUINS EVERYWHERE.
BUT THERE'S NOTHING LEFT HERE.

TURNED ME INTO WHO I AM NOW.
THIS IS WHERE THE THINGS I LEARNED FROM NARUMI-NIICHAN…

I'M... HIS ADOPTED SON, ACTUALLY ...
AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
B-BUT... WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE CARETAKING NOW THAT THE MANSION'S GONE?
WELL, BECAUSE ...
TH' PREVIOUS HEAD OF TH' SAIGA FAMILY PAID M' WAGES IN ADVANCE.
HUH?
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
I, UM... REMEMBERED THIS PLACE TODAY, SO... I JUST THOUGHT I'D...
... WHAT WAS THAT ...?
IT'S MASARU... SAIGA MASARU.
UM ...
WHAT IS YOUR NAME, BOY?!
HUH?! BUT I...
YOU COME ALONG WITH ME!

BUT, ABOUT 30 YEARS AGO, I S'POSE IT WAS...
I WAS HIRED AS CARETAKER BY THE SAIGA FAMILY 40 YEARS AGO...
UM... WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TO THINK THAT YOU'D ACTUALLY SHOW UP...
"PASS THESE AND THE MANSION ALONG TO HIM."
HE TOLD ME, "IF A BOY NAMED MASARU SOMEDAY COMES HERE ...
YOUR LATE FATHER ...
17
カコン
EN-TRUSTED ME WITH SOMETHIN' ODD.

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT... 30 YEARS AGO...
30 YEARS AGO, MY FATHER KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN?
B-BUT ...
I CAME HERE TODAY... BECAUSE I JUST HAP-PENED TO THINK OF IT... MYSELF ...


DAD ...!
WHY?! HOW?!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

NOTES:

The trip from Nagoya to Karuizawa is about 4 hours by car

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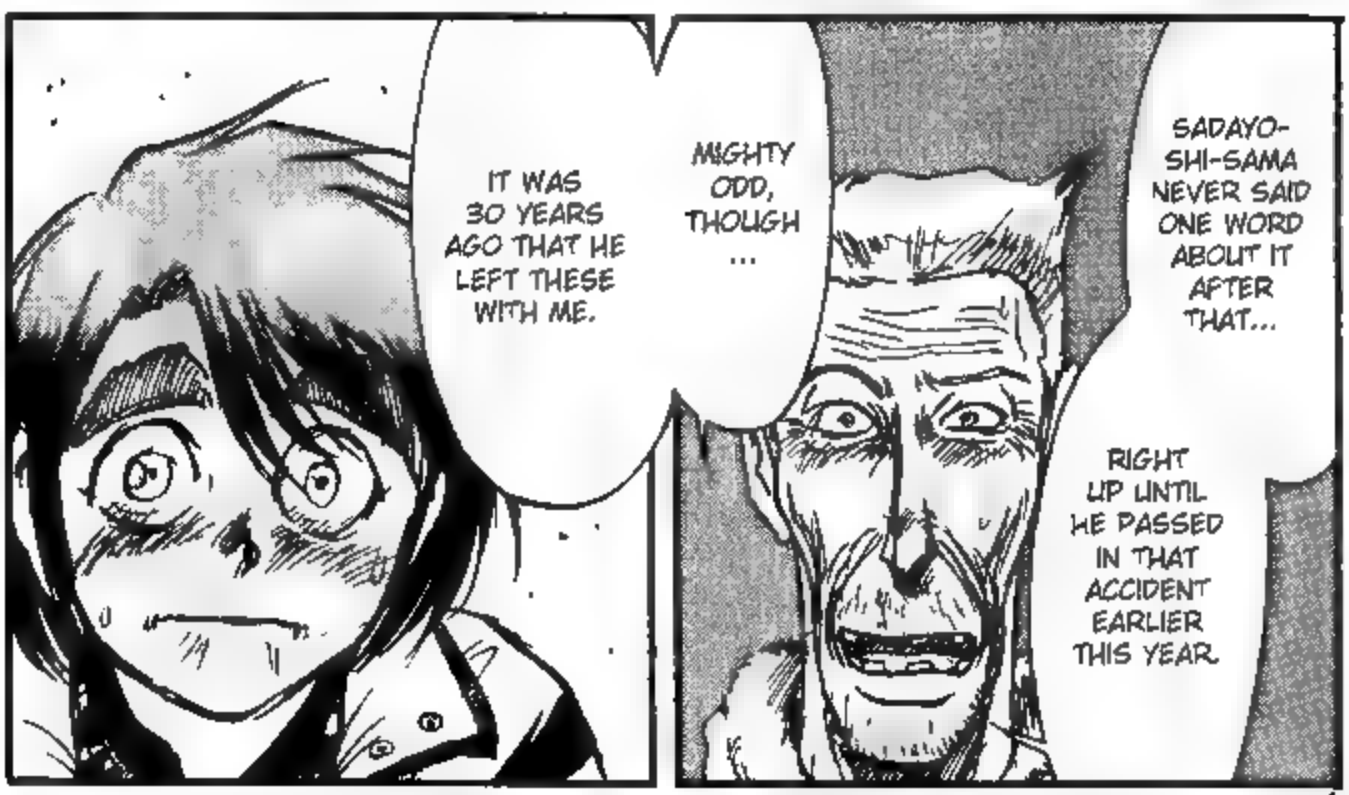
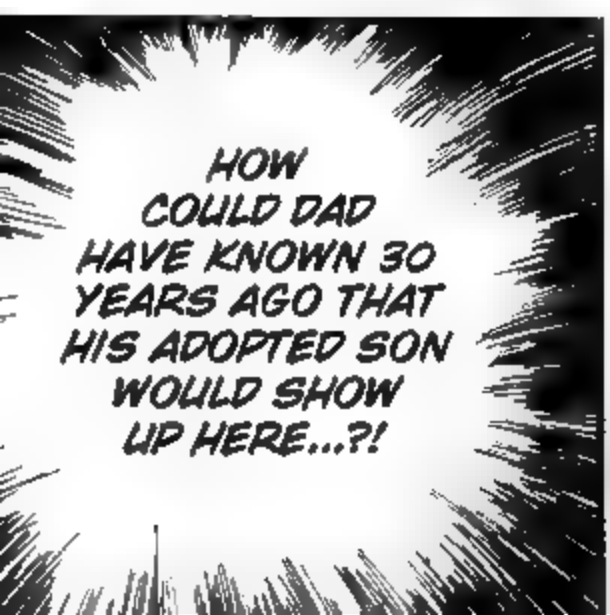
HE SAID, "WHEN A BOY NAMED MASARU COMES HERE, PASS THESE ALONG TO HIM."
AND SO TH' PREVIOUS MASTER-- YOUR FATHER, SADAYOSHI-SAMA--LEFT THESE T' ME.

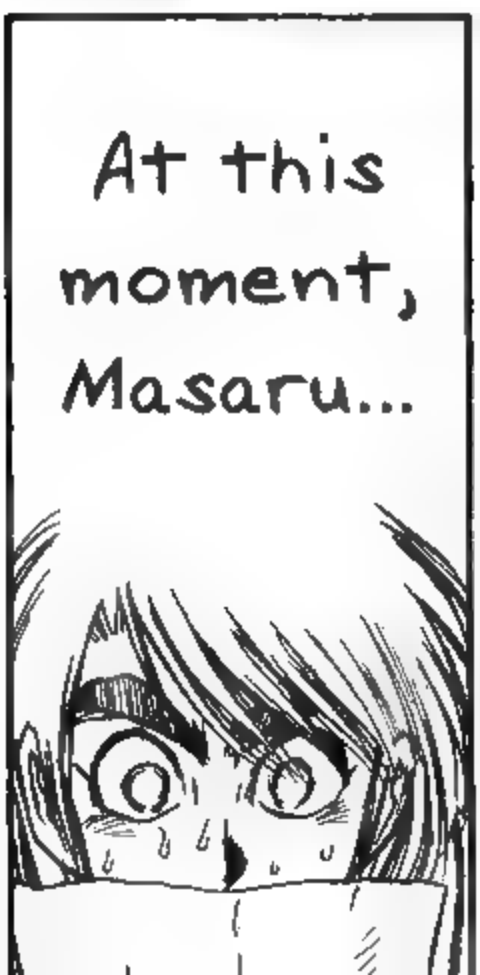
ACT 3 THE KARAKURI MANSION OF KARUIZAWA


IT WAS 30 YEARS AGO THAT HE LEFT THESE WITH ME.
MIGHTY ODD, THOUGH ...
SADAYO-SHI-SAMA NEVER SAID ONE WORD ABOUT IT AFTER THAT...
RIGHT UP UNTIL HE PASSED IN THAT ACCIDENT EARLIER THIS YEAR.

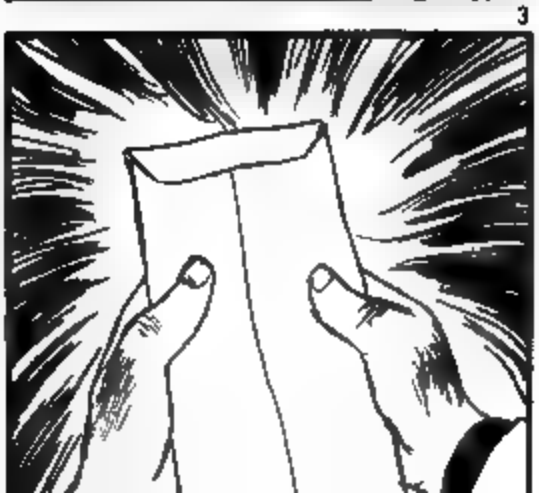


第3幕
軽井沢
からくり屋敷

OH, YEAH ...
THERE WAS THIS, TOO.
A LETTER ...?
HE MUST'VE WRITTEN SOMETHIN' IN IT.
JUST A MINUTE, TEA'S GOTTEN COLD.


At this moment, Masaru...

ｱﾚ?



there has been some error in the memory transfer.

The fact that you have received this letter means that

Return to the room

HEH?
HERE, I GOT SOME JUI—
DID YOU FIGURE SOME-THIN' OUT, BOY?
A
MARK!!
I'VE SEEN IT SOME-WHERE!
5
SOME-WHERE IN THIS MANSION!

ERROR? MEMORY TRANS-FER? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?!
THERE HAS BEEN SOME ERROR WITH THE MEMORY TRANSFER ...
WHAT A WEIRD LETTER
AT THIS MOMENT, MASARU:

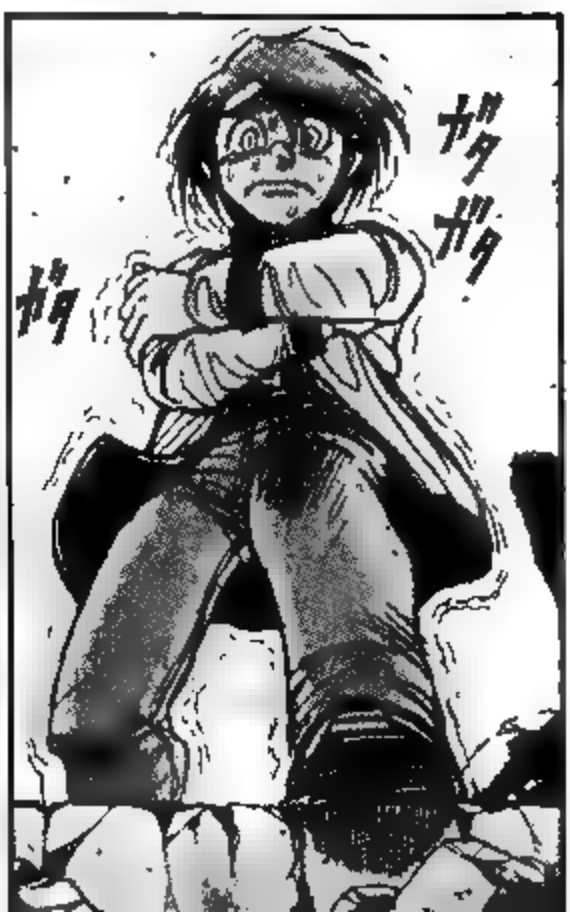
A ROOM ...?
OH, I'LL GO, ALL RIGHT! I'M SURE I'LL LEARN SOMETHING IF I DO!
RETURN TO THE ROOM...

LET'S GET DOWN THERE, THEN.
Y-YES... WE'LL BE SAFE IF WE CAN MAKE IT THERE ...
THERE'S A WATER-WAY IN THE BASEMENT, RIGHT?
HANG IN THERE, UNCLE ZENJI.
KOFF
OH... RIGHT. IT WAS WHILE I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE SMOKE AND FLAMES.

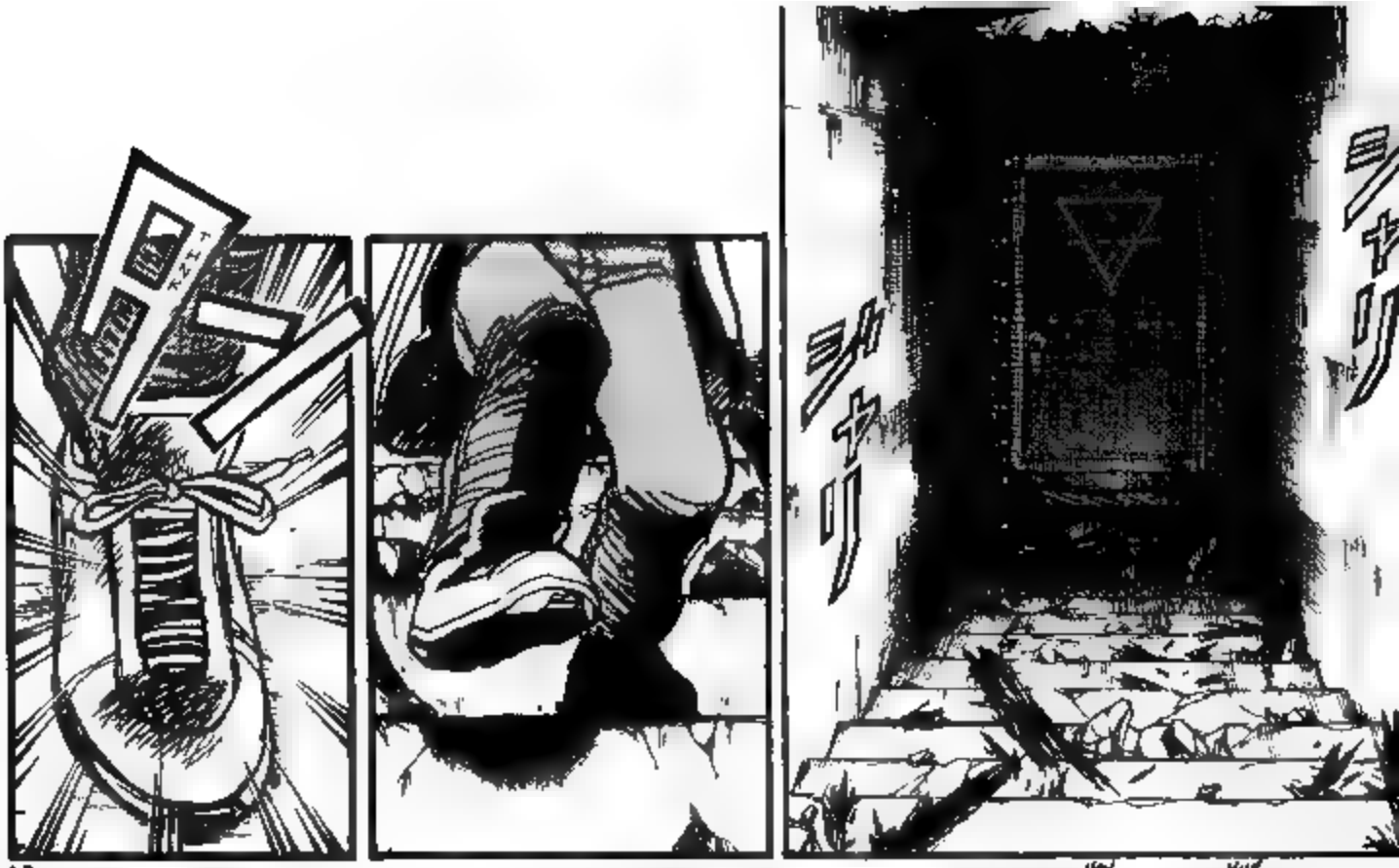
KOFF KOFF... THIS WAY ...
HERE IT IS...

8

SFX CHATTERING TEETH CHATTERING



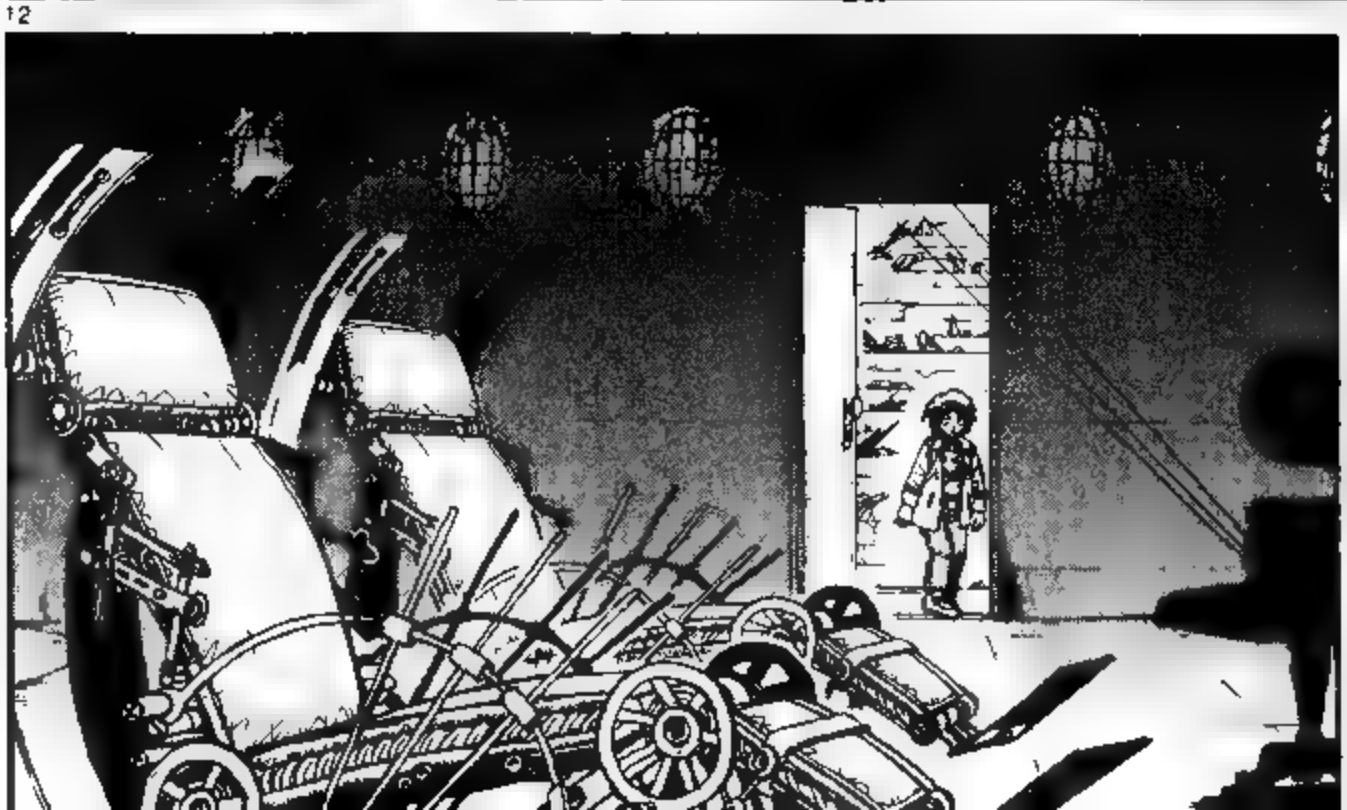
SFX: CAWING

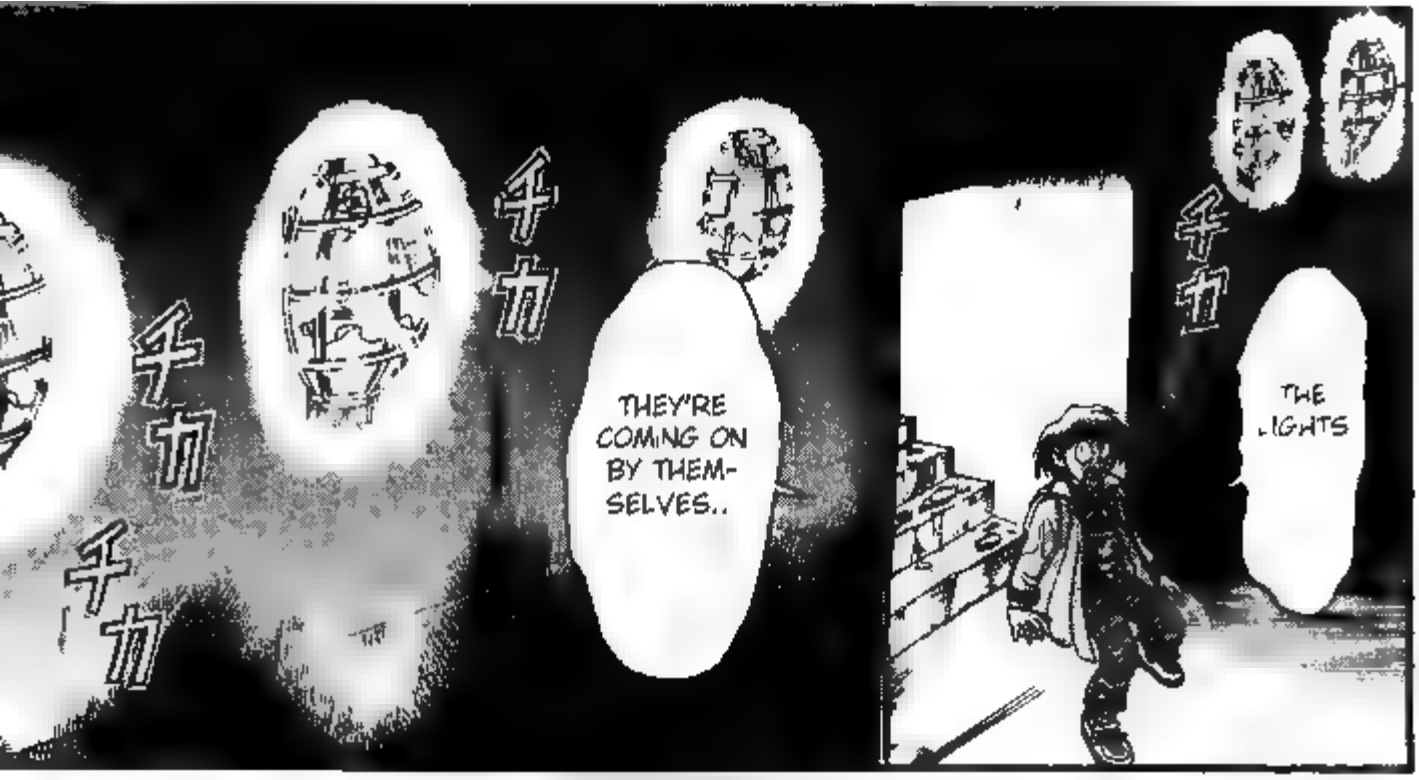

ガチ
ジャリ
ジャリ

ガチャガチャ

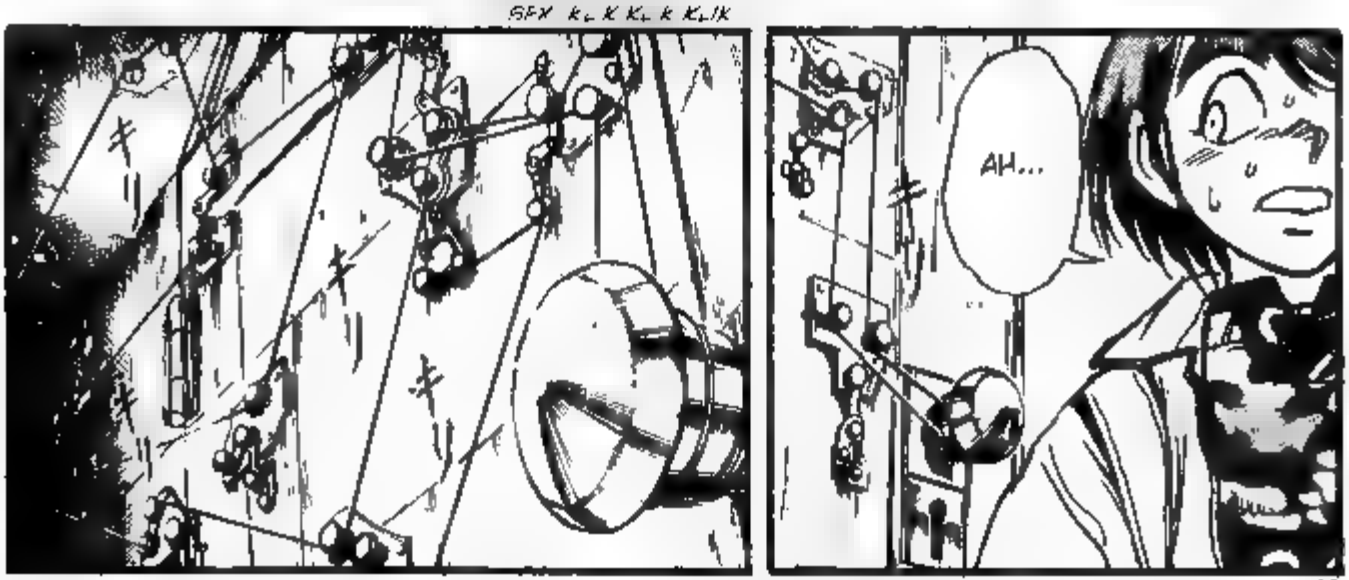
HAH
HAH
Hah
Hah
AH...
IT'S GETTING DARK
KCHK
KA-CHAK
GG!!!!!!!!

12





SFX: KL K KL K KLIK

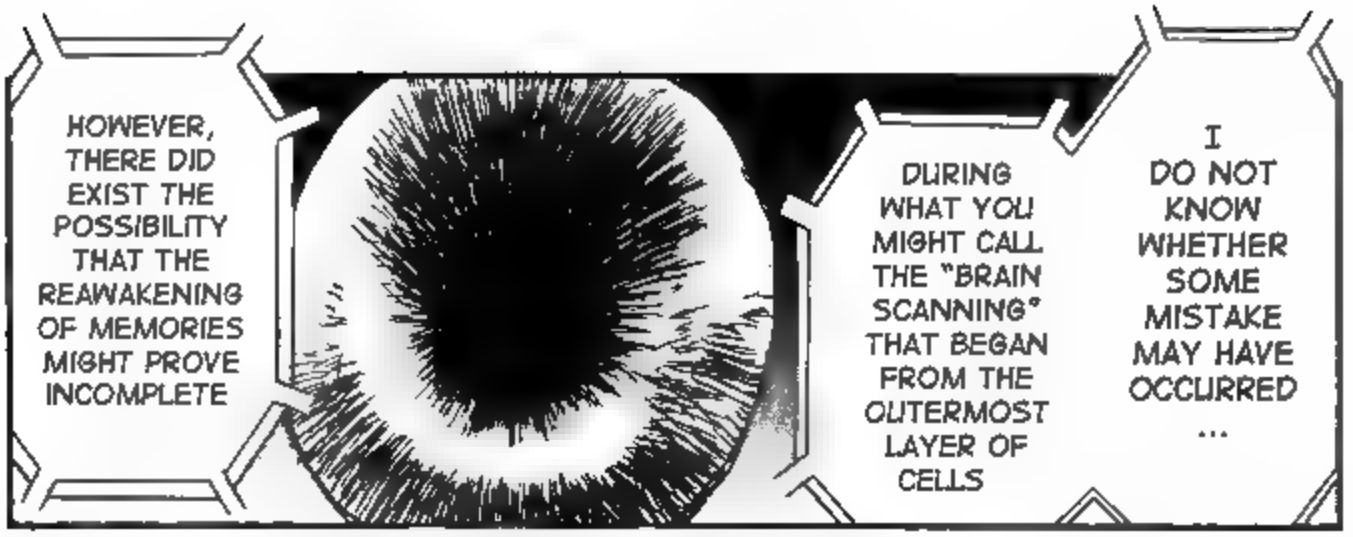


SFX: STARTLE, CLICK, CREAKING

はははは
たたた
AT THIS MOMENT, MASARU
AS YOU LISTEN TO THIS RECORDING, DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
WHA ...
RECOR-DING?

THAT'S MY DAD'S VOICE...
WHO AM I?

EX-ACTLY!
WHY WERE YOU, AN ADOPTED CHILD, GIVEN THAT ENORMOUS INHERITANCE BY YOUR FATHER?
WHY DO YOU FIND YOURSELF IN THIS SITUA-TION?
YEAH... THAT'S RIGHT, DAD.
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE MEANS THAT YOU WISH TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF AM I CORRECT?

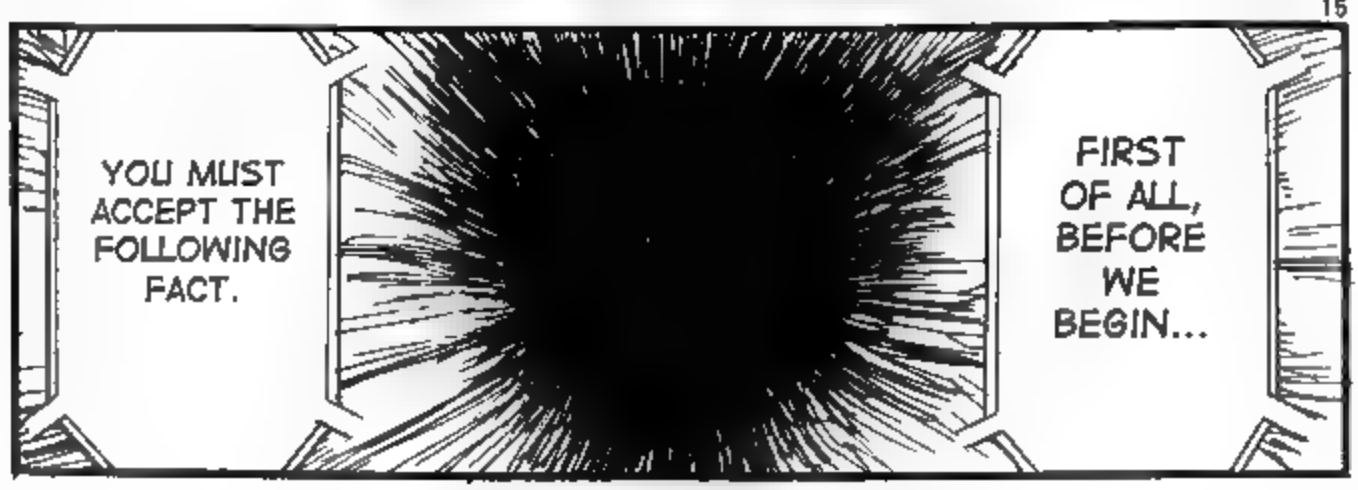

HOWEVER, THERE DID EXIST THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE REAWAKENING OF MEMORIES MIGHT PROVE INCOMPLETE
DURING WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL THE "BRAIN SCANNING" THAT BEGAN FROM THE OUTERMOST LAYER OF CELLS
I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER SOME MISTAKE MAY HAVE OCCURRED ...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YOU'RE SAYING.
DAD?
HUH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT...

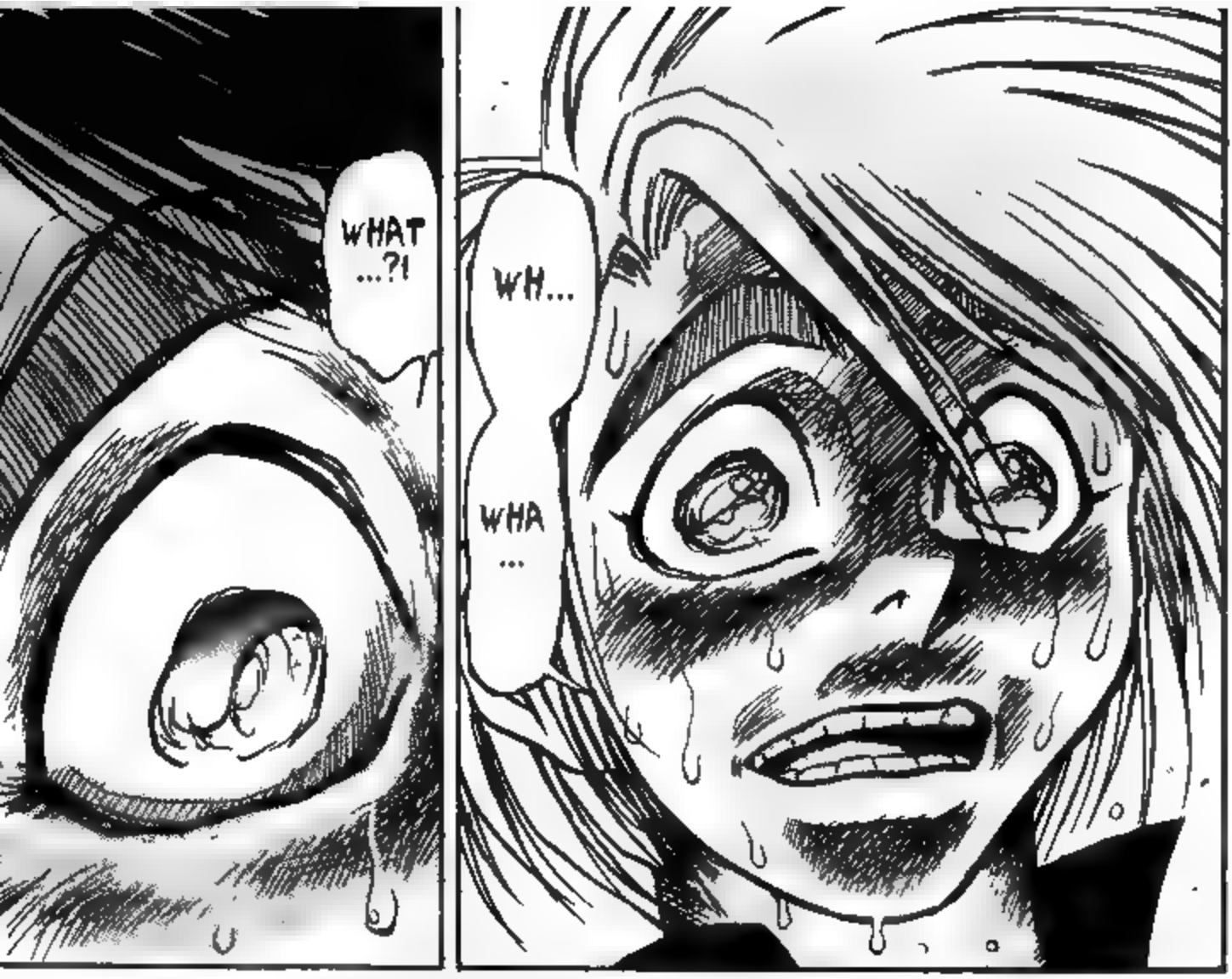
OF AWAKENING YOUR MEMORIES THROUGH VERBAL COMMUNICATION.
THEREFORE, I HAVE LEFT BEHIND A METHOD...

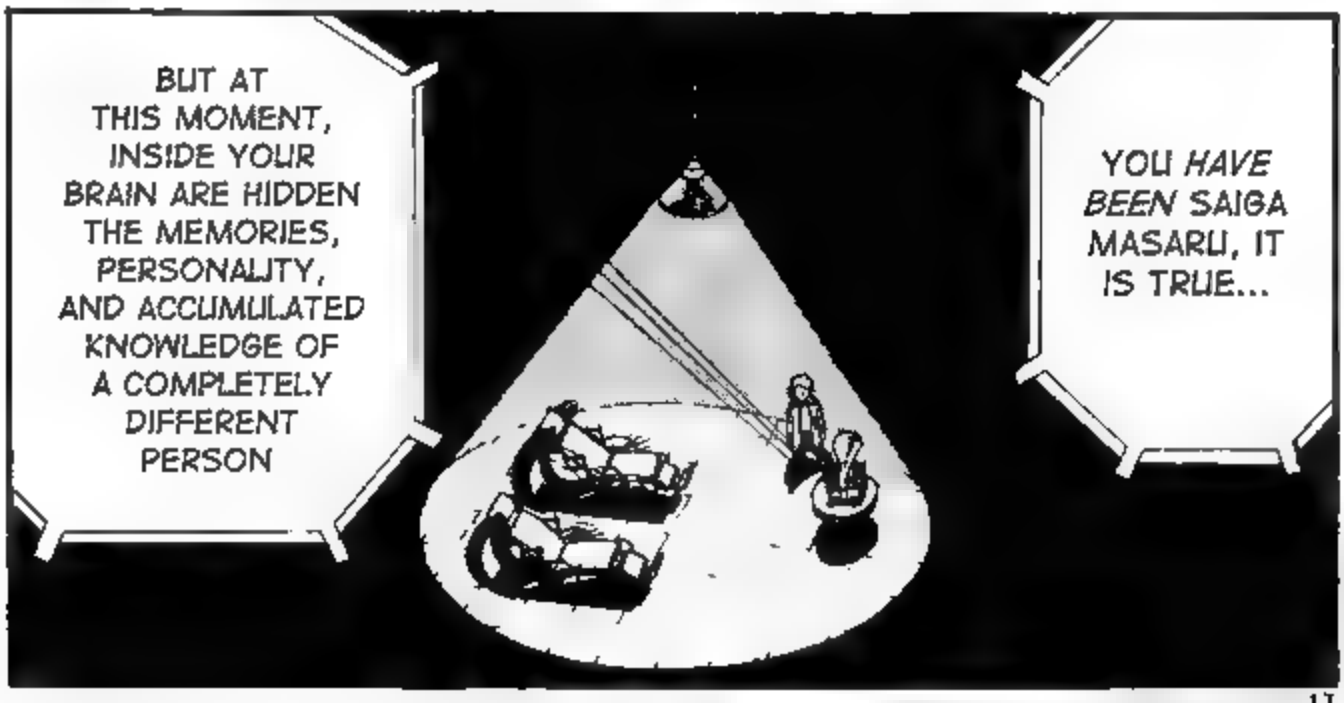
MAKES ANY SENSE TO ME!
NONE OF THIS...

15

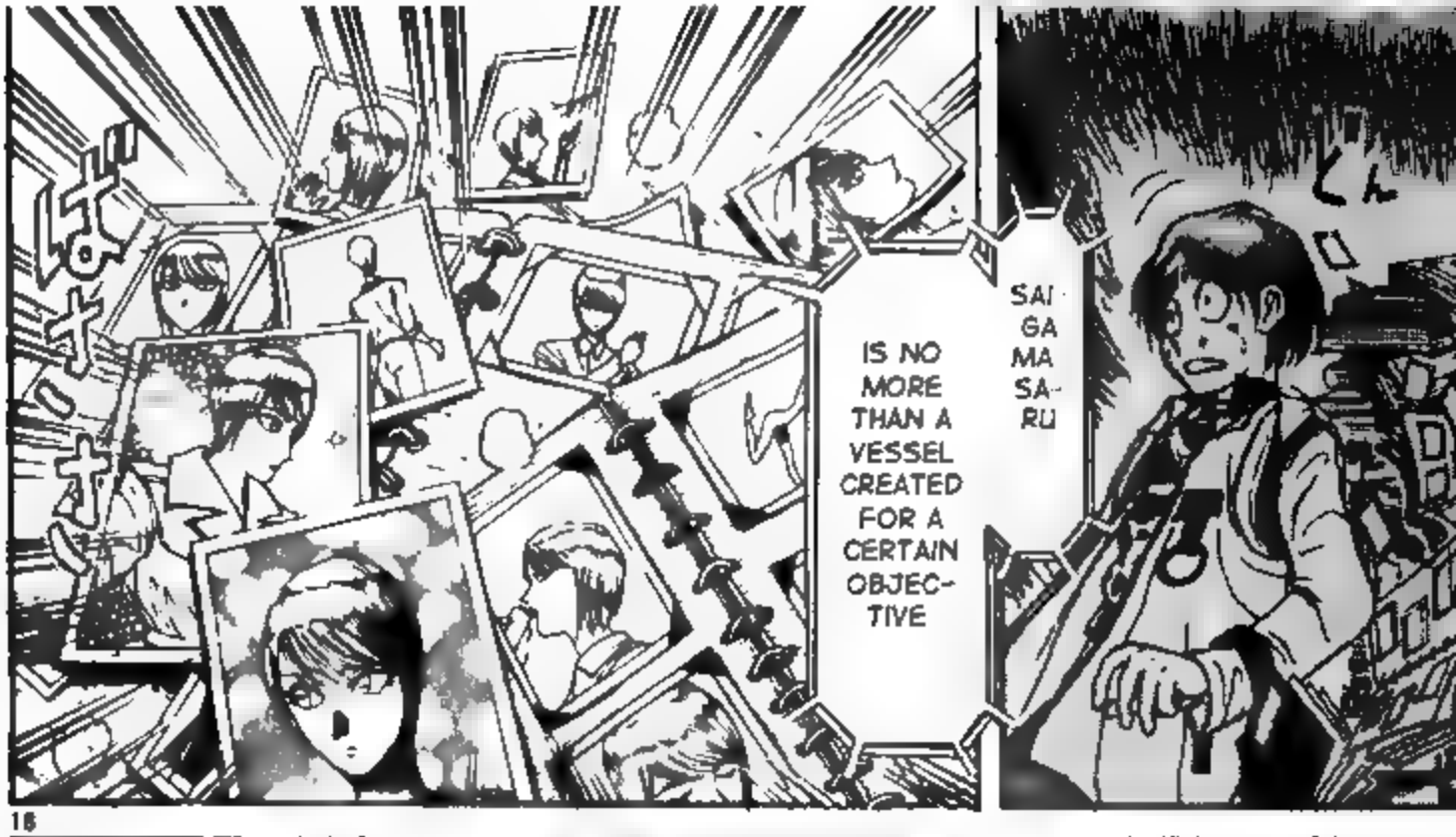

YOU MUST ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING FACT.
FIRST OF ALL, BEFORE WE BEGIN...

SAIGA MASARU.
YOU ARE NOT ...


WHAT ...?!
WH...
WHA ...


BUT AT THIS MOMENT, INSIDE YOUR BRAIN ARE HIDDEN THE MEMORIES, PERSONALITY, AND ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON
YOU *HAVE BEEN* SAIGA MASARU, IT IS TRUE...

ALL OF THE INFORMATION WITHIN YOUR BRAIN CONSISTS OF AN ELECTRICAL PATTERN. THESE ELECTRIC IMPULSES CAN BE MOVED. THEY CAN BE DOWNLOADED INTO ANOTHER BRAIN.
THAT... THAT'S NOT TRUE... THAT CAN'T BE POS-SIBLE...


IS NO MORE THAN A VESSEL CREATED FOR A CERTAIN OBJEC-TIVE
SAI GA MA SA-RU

NO. IT IS TO MYSELF THAT I SPEAK.
AND SO, SAIGA MASARU ...
SH-SHIRO-GANE?!

LEFT ALL I HAD TO MYSELF.
I, SAIGA SADA-YOSHI .

IT WAS NOT MASARU TO WHOM I LEFT EVERY-THING.

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

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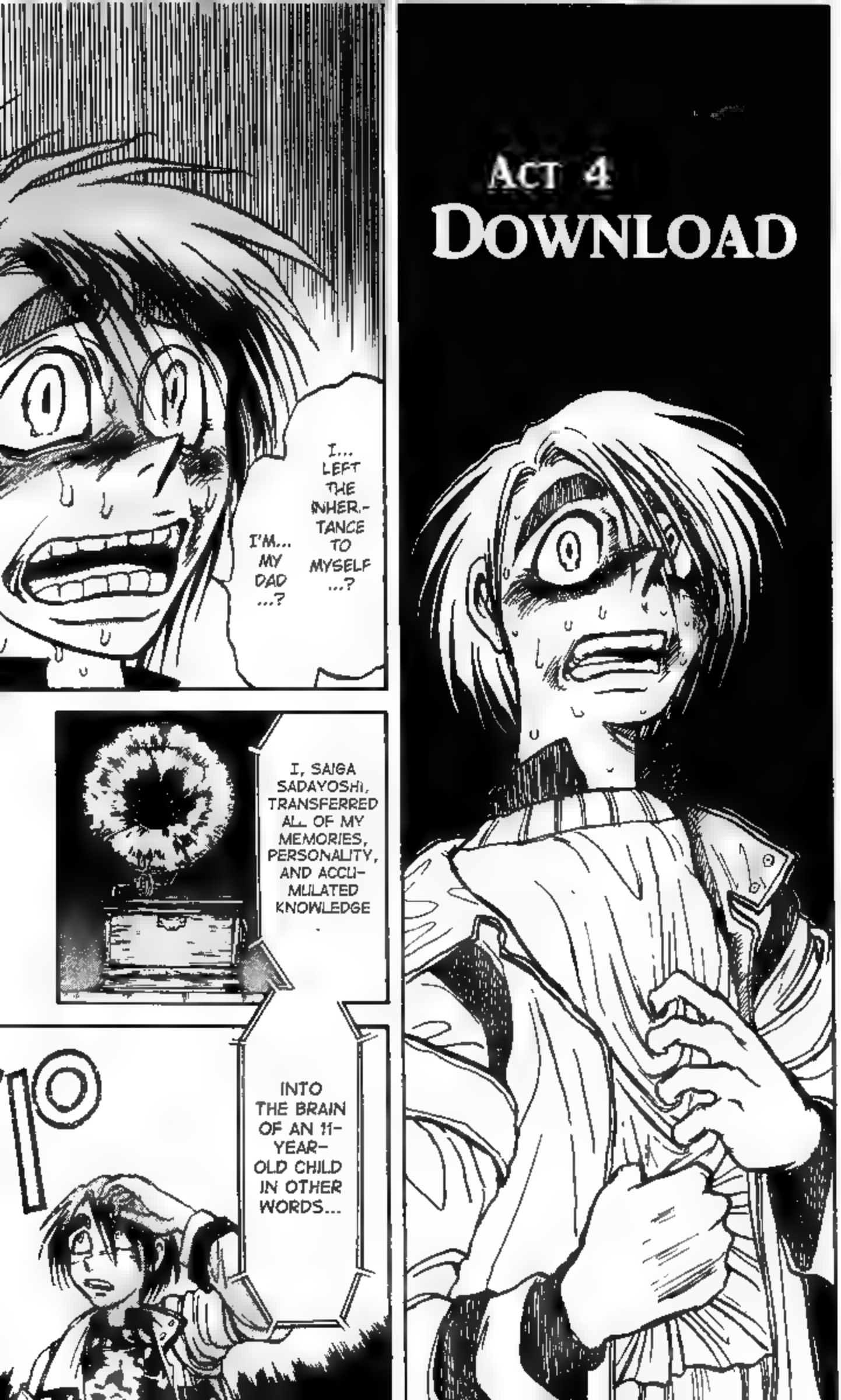
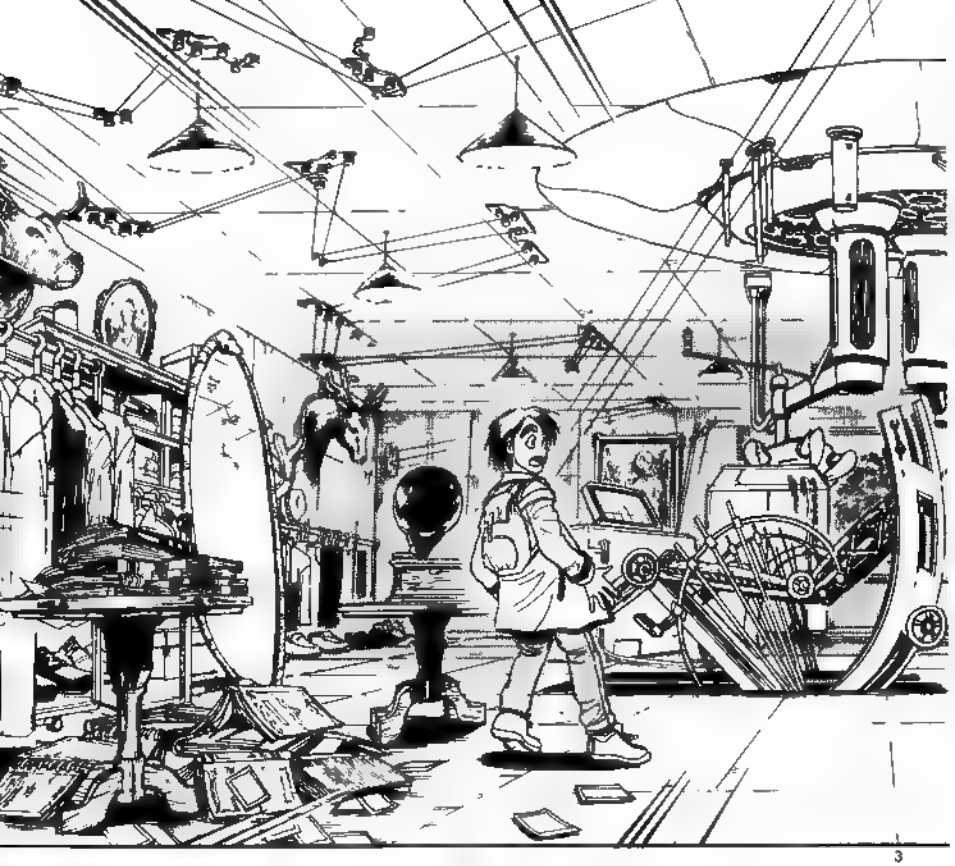

ACT 4
DOWNLOAD
I... LEFT THE INHER-TANCE TO MYSELF ...?
I'M... MY DAD ...?
I, SAIGA SADAYOSHI, TRANSFERRED ALL OF MY MEMORIES, PERSONALITY, AND ACCU-MULATED KNOWLEDGE.
INTO THE BRAIN OF AN 11-YEAR-OLD CHILD IN OTHER WORDS...
10



SAIGA SADAYOSHI WAS DOWN-LOADED
AND BECAME SAIGA MASARU!!

3

ALL OF IT PART OF A PLAN TO ACHIEVE ONE SINGLE OBJECTIVE

BUT TAKE A LOOK AROUND IF YOU STILL DO NOT REMEMBER, THEN HOW ELSE CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE FACT THAT EVERYTHING IN THIS ROOM WAS INTENDED FOR YOUR USE?

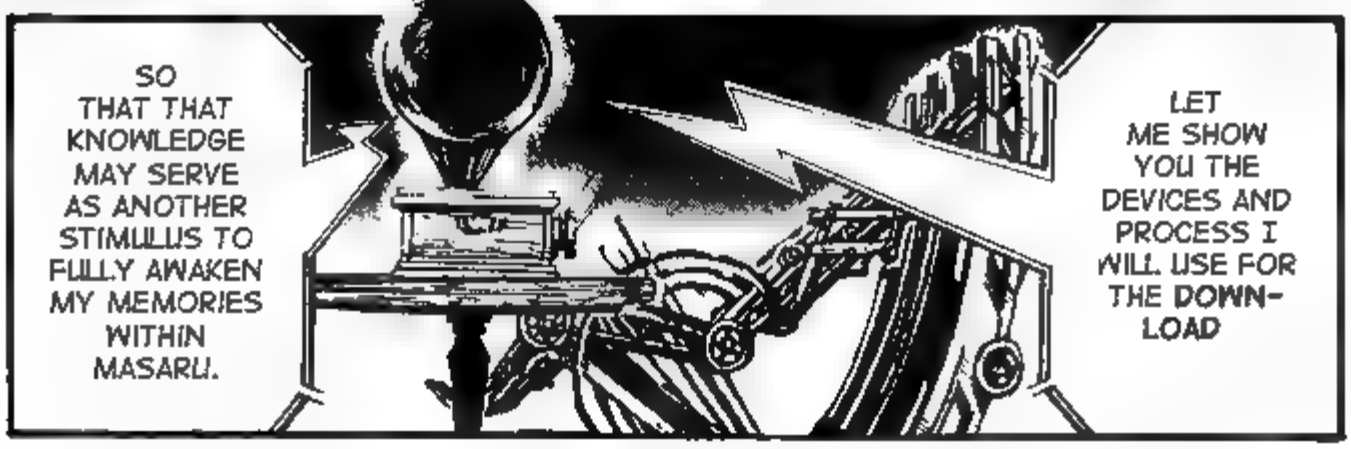
I'M SURE THAT YOU STILL THINK OF YOURSELF AS SAIGA MASARU.

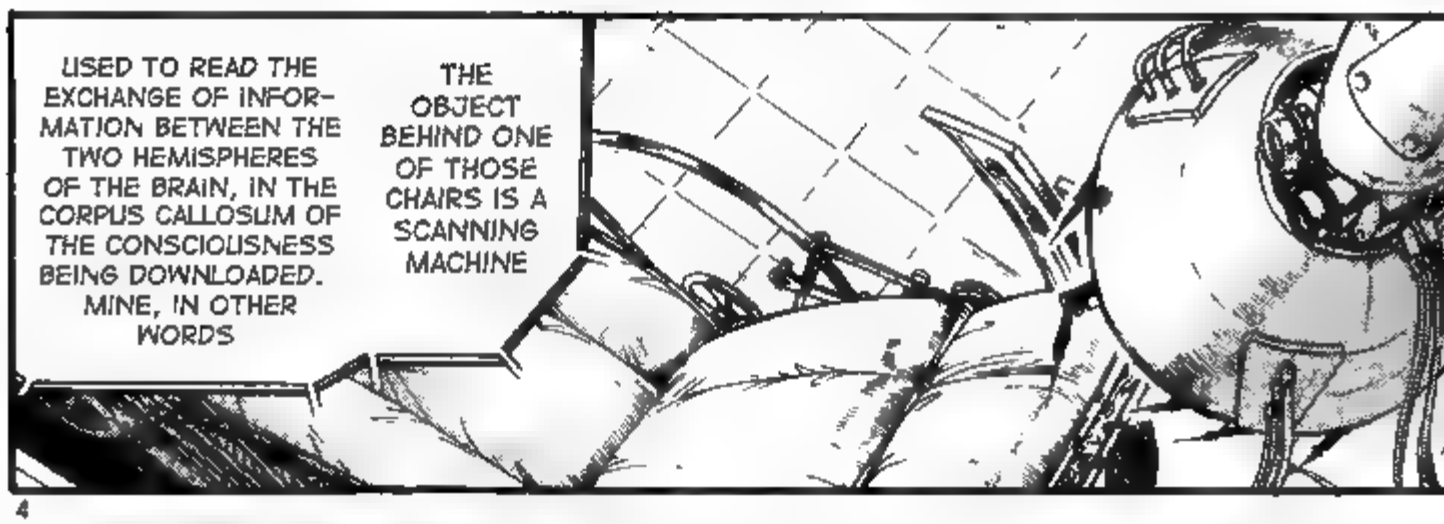
2

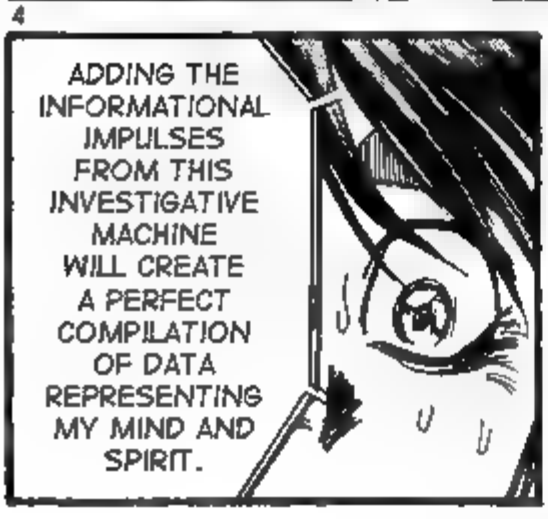
EXACTLY MY SIZE ...
THESE ARE ALL....

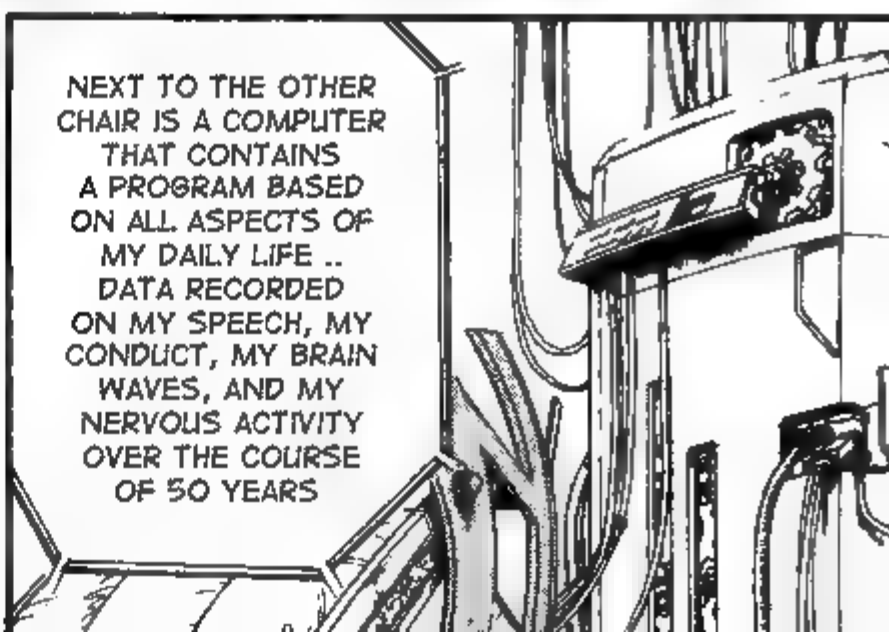
I DON'T REMEMBER MY DAD'S MEMORIES TAKING OVER OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!
BUT ... I'M ME ...!

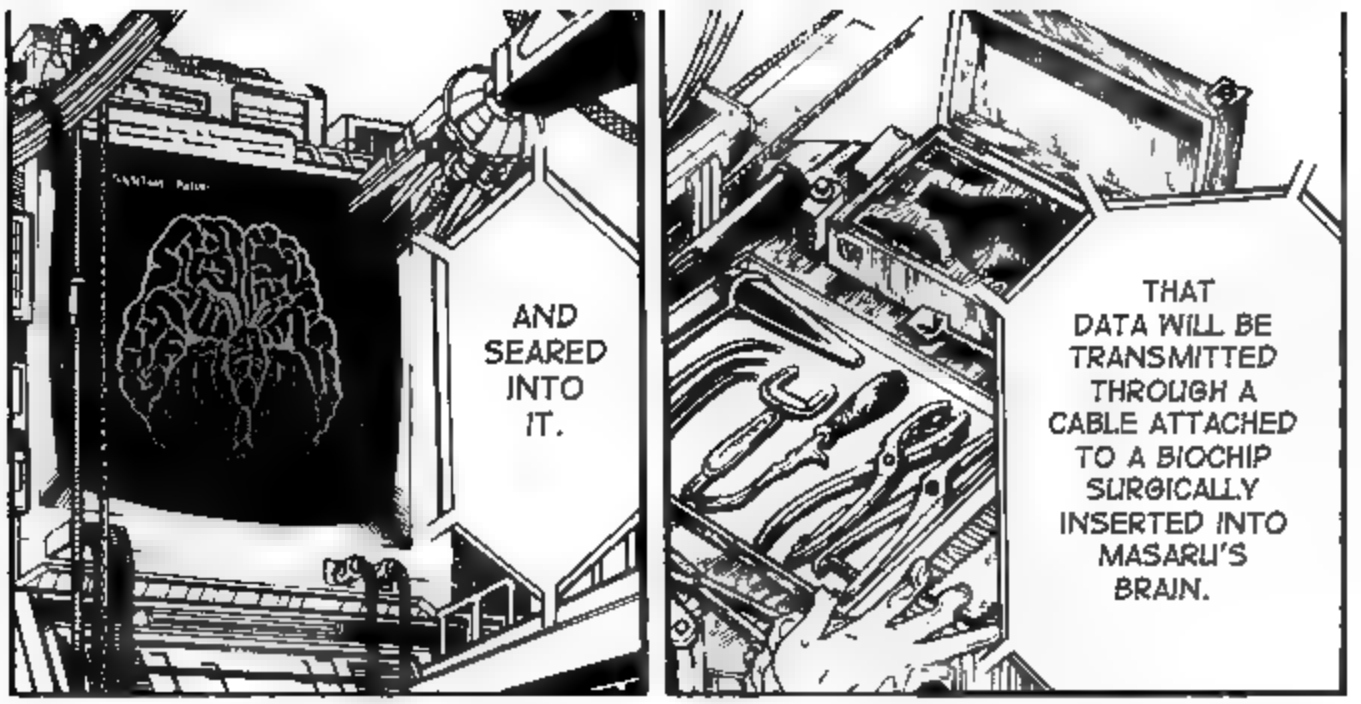
SHIROGANE...? WHAT DOES SHE HAVE TO DO WITH THIS? THAT'S WHY MY DAD BECAME ME...?!

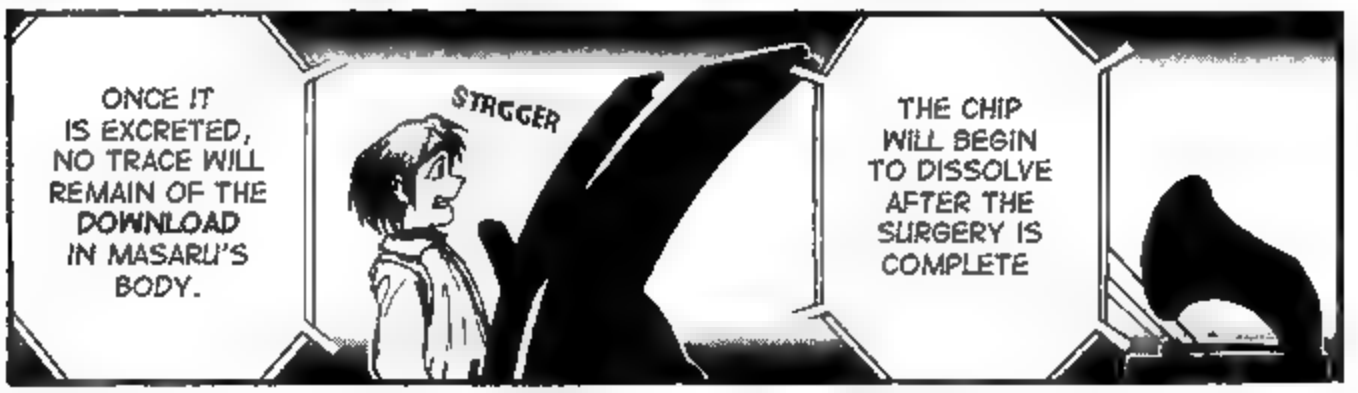

SO THAT THAT KNOWLEDGE MAY SERVE AS ANOTHER STIMULUS TO FULLY AWAKEN MY MEMORIES WITHIN MASARU.
LET ME SHOW YOU THE DEVICES AND PROCESS I WILL USE FOR THE DOWN-LOAD


USED TO READ THE EXCHANGE OF INFOR-MATION BETWEEN THE TWO HEMISPHERES OF THE BRAIN, IN THE CORPUS CALLOSUM OF THE CONSCIOUSNESS BEING DOWNLOADED. MINE, IN OTHER WORDS
THE OBJECT BEHIND ONE OF THOSE CHAIRS IS A SCANNING MACHINE

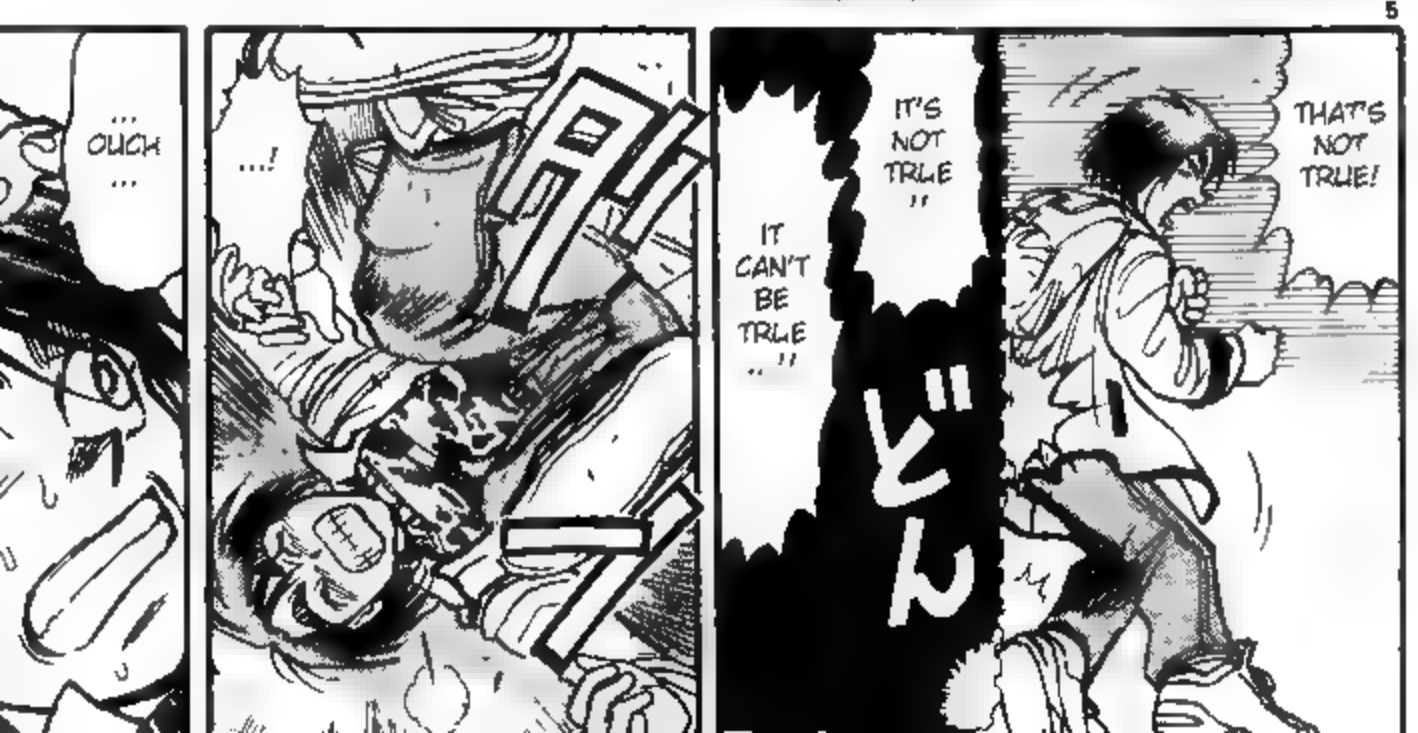

ADDING THE INFORMATIONAL IMPULSES FROM THIS INVESTIGATIVE MACHINE WILL CREATE A PERFECT COMPILATION OF DATA REPRESENTING MY MIND AND SPIRIT.

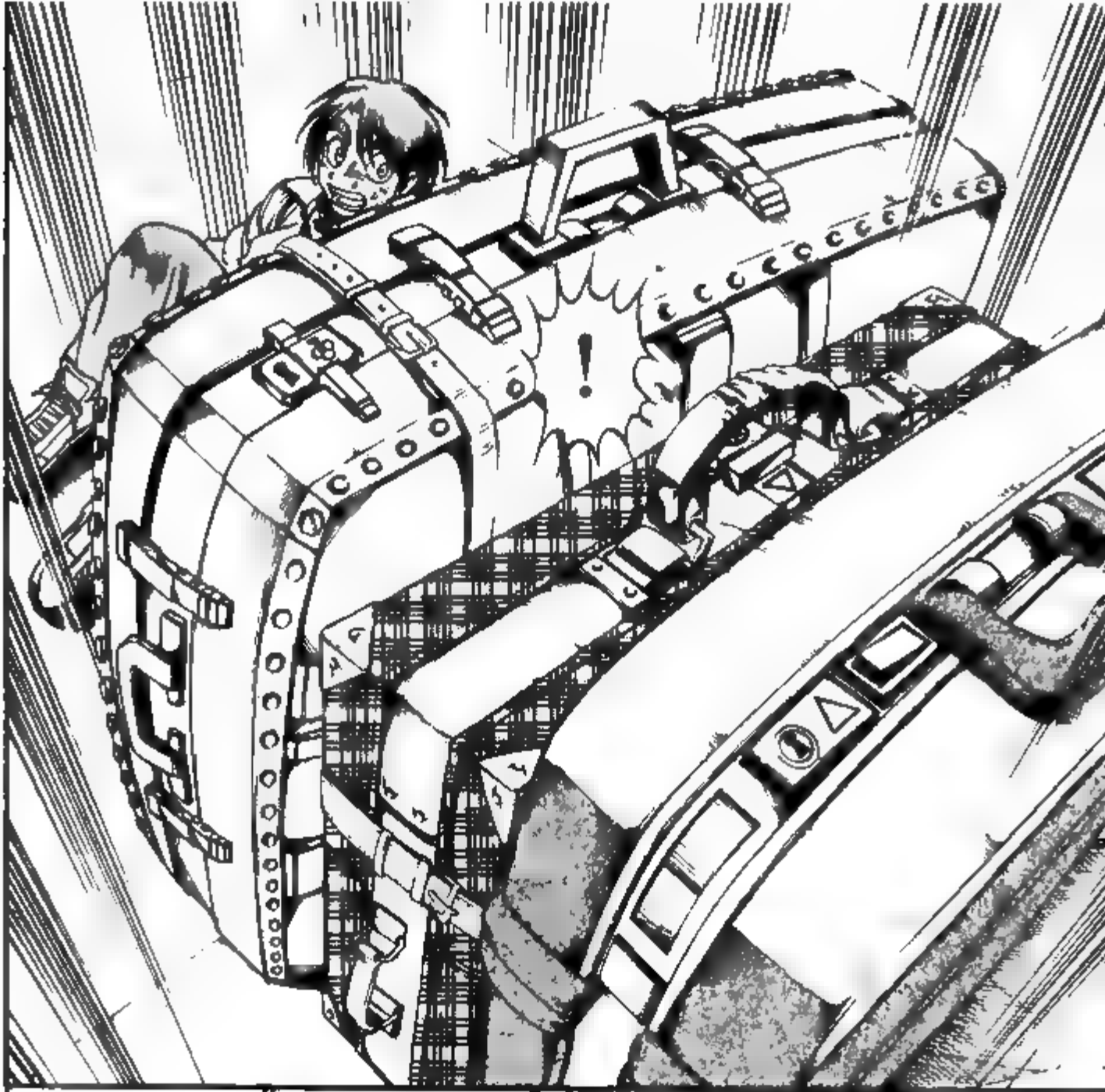

NEXT TO THE OTHER CHAIR IS A COMPUTER THAT CONTAINS A PROGRAM BASED ON ALL ASPECTS OF MY DAILY LIFE .. DATA RECORDED ON MY SPEECH, MY CONDUCT, MY BRAIN WAVES, AND MY NERVOUS ACTIVITY OVER THE COURSE OF 50 YEARS


AND SEARED INTO IT.
THAT DATA WILL BE TRANSMITTED THROUGH A CABLE ATTACHED TO A BIOCHIP SURGICALLY INSERTED INTO MASARU'S BRAIN.


ONCE IT IS EXCRETED, NO TRACE WILL REMAIN OF THE DOWNLOAD IN MASARU'S BODY.
STAGGER
THE CHIP WILL BEGIN TO DISSOLVE AFTER THE SURGERY IS COMPLETE

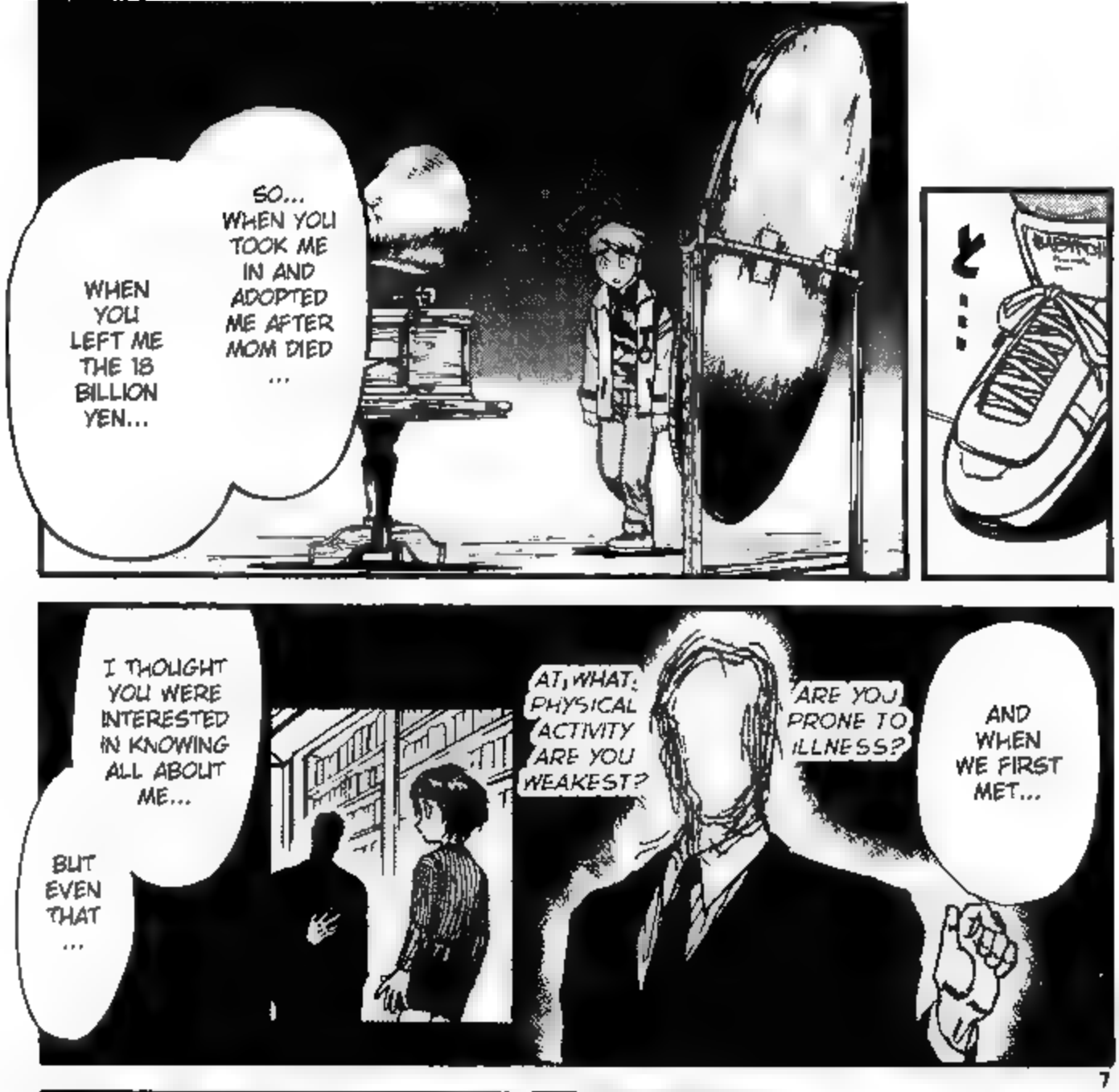
YOU'RE LYING!
NO ONE WILL EVER SUSPECT THAT I HAVE BEGUN A SECOND LIFE IN THE BODY OF AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOY BY THE NAME OF MASARU


... OUCH ...
...!
IT'S NOT TRUE ''
IT CAN'T BE TRUE .. ''
THAT'S NOT TRUE!


!

THEY WERE DEVELOPED THROUGH THE SAIGA FAMILY'S RESEARCH. THEY ARE FAR MORE USEFUL THAN ANY MARIONETTE
THEIR RINGS SHOULD FIT YOU PERFECTLY AS WELL.

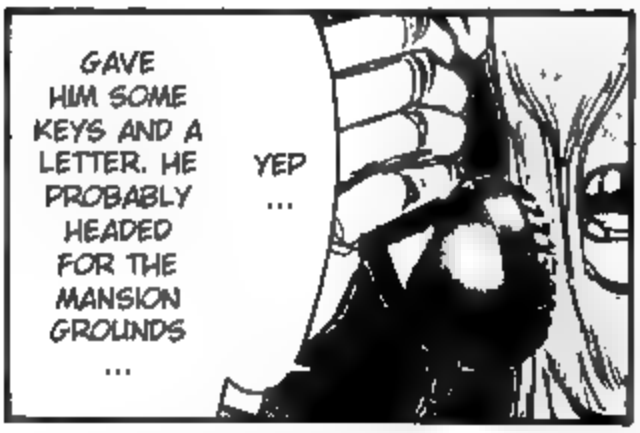
AH, YES IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, I HAVE ALSO PREPARED THESE PUP-PETS THAT CAN BE CONTROLLED OVER A DISTANCE BY STRINGS


SO... WHEN YOU TOOK ME IN AND ADOPTED ME AFTER MOM DIED ...
WHEN YOU LEFT ME THE 18 BILLION YEN...
と……
I THOUGHT YOU WERE INTERESTED IN KNOWING ALL ABOUT ME...
BUT EVEN THAT ...
AT, WHAT: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY ARE YOU WEAKEST?
ARE YOU PRONE TO ILLNESS?
AND WHEN WE FIRST MET...
7

AT THIS MOMENT, MASARU
YOU SEEM TO HAVE GROWN UP WITH A HEALTHY BODY. AND BY GREAT GOOD FORTUNE, YOU HAVE A FINE BRAIN AS WELL.
ALL OF IT... ALL OF IT WAS... SO YOU COULD TAKE OVER MY BODY?

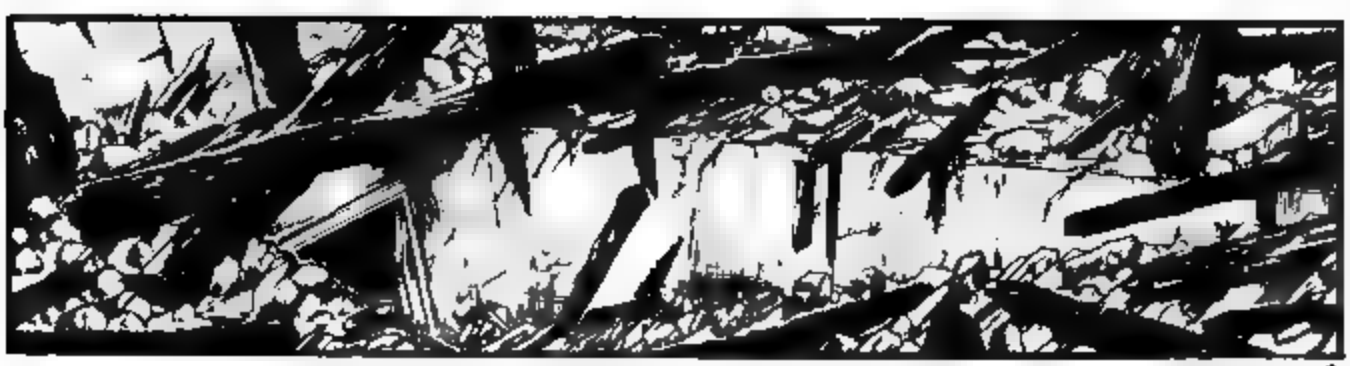
YOUR DAD ...
IS SO PROUD OF YOU.

WHO AM I?!
AAAAAGH!!


GAVE HIM SOME KEYS AND A LETTER. HE PROBABLY HEADED FOR THE MANSION GROUNDS ...
YEP ...

UH-HUH. THAT'S RIGHT. TH' NAME HE GAVE WAS MASARU, ALL RIGHT.

I'M HAPPY TO BE OF ANY HELP.
THE OLD MASTER ALWAYS DID RIGHT BY MY PA 'N ME...
NO, NO TROUBLE AT ALL.



9

LOOK THROUGH THIS ROOM NOW AND REMEMBER LOOK AT THE TOOLS I USED, AND MY PERSONAL EFFECTS, AND REMEMBER

RE-
MEM-
BER
I'M...
ME...
RE-
MEMBER
BEING
SAIGA
SADA-
YOSHI.
RE-
MEM
BER
RE-
MEM
BER
RE
MEM
BER
RE-
MEM-
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RE
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BER.
RE
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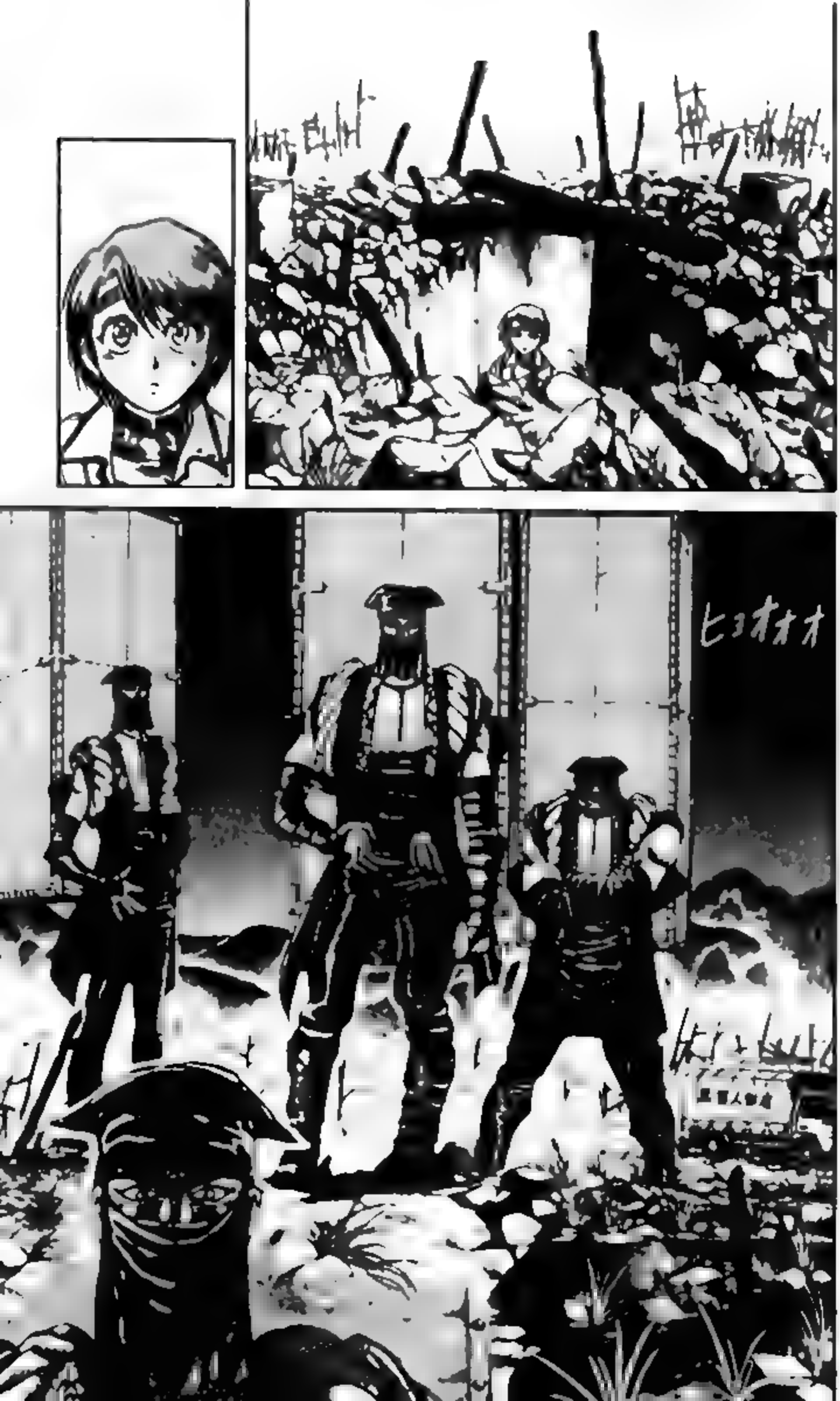
BER

HAH
HAH

I'M
NOT MY
DAD!!

FEBRUARY
16TH
TUESDAY

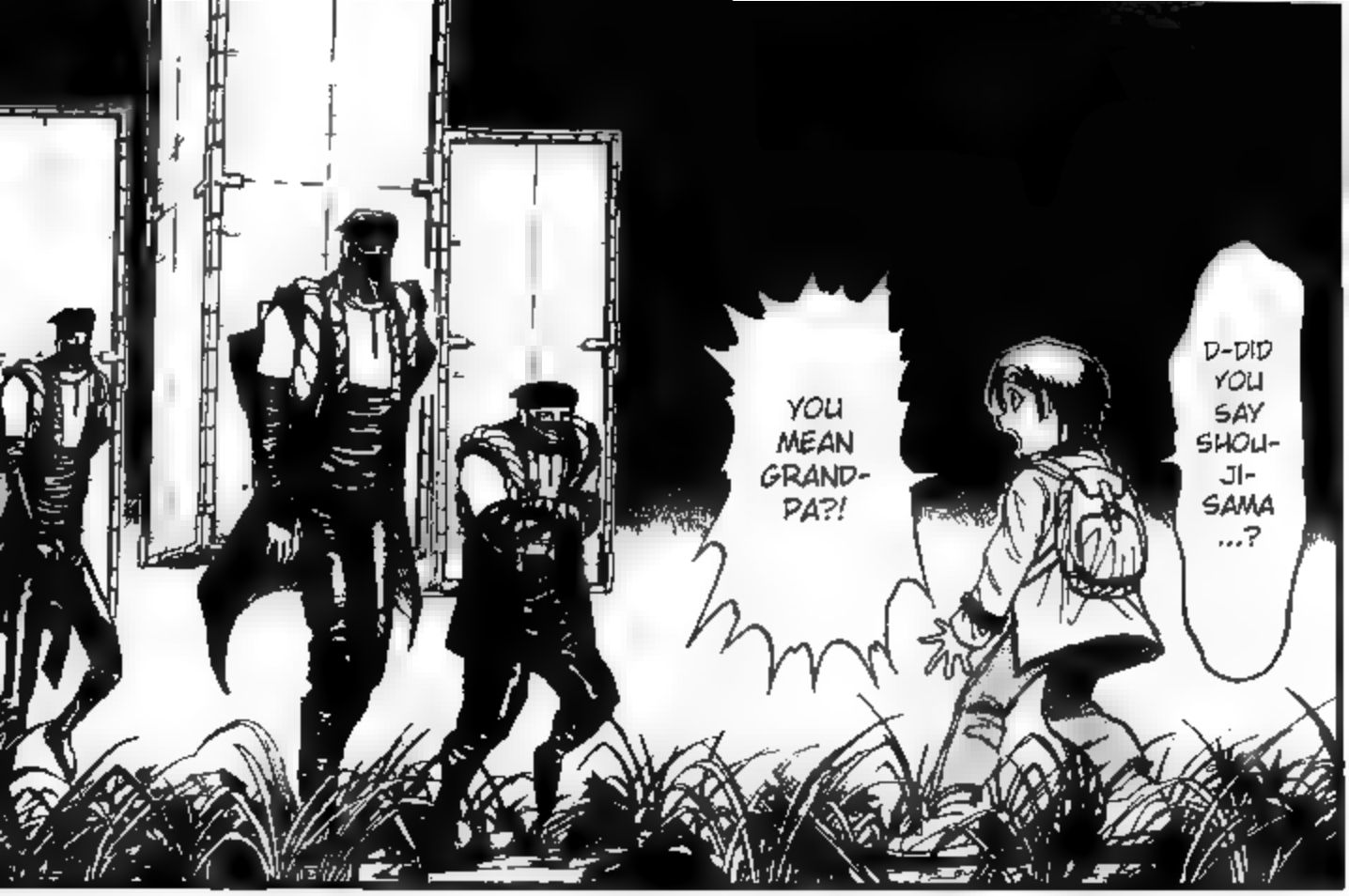

ヒョオオオ

SAIGA SADA-YOSHI.
SO YOU'VE HAD THE NERVE TO GO THIS FAR TO TRANSFORM YOURSELF ...

UH... WHO ...?

AFTER OBTAINING THE BODY OF SAIGA MASARU... IT'S JUST AS SHOUJI-SAMA TOLD US.
THE POSSIBILITY THAT YOU SURVIVED THAT INCI-DENT, AND WOULD SHOW UP HERE...

!
NO... WAIT A SECOND, I...!!


D-DID YOU SAY SHOU-JI-SAMA ...?
YOU MEAN GRAND-PA?!

BUT WE ALREADY KNOW THAT YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS HAS BEEN DOWNLOADED INTO THAT KID'S BRAIN.
HMPH. YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD AT ACTING LIKE A KID.

WHO... WHO ARE YOU GUYS?

WHAT REASON WOULD A NORMAL CHILD HAVE TO COME HERE?!
SHUT UP! IF IT HASN'T, THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
NO, THAT'S NOT TRUE! I—

YOUR STARTING POINT.
YOU SHOULD HEAD FOR...
I... BE-CAUSE... GUY-SAN...

YOU MAY HAVE SURVIVED ON THE HIGHWAY ...
BUT THIS IS ABOUT TO BECOME YOUR FINAL RESTING PLACE.

ENOUGH EXCUSES.
TOO BAD FOR YOU, SADAYO-SHI.

ナポレオン

AH...
AH...!

SO THEN... YOU GUYS ARE ...!
YOU'RE ONE HELL OF AN ACTOR, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT WE'RE ...

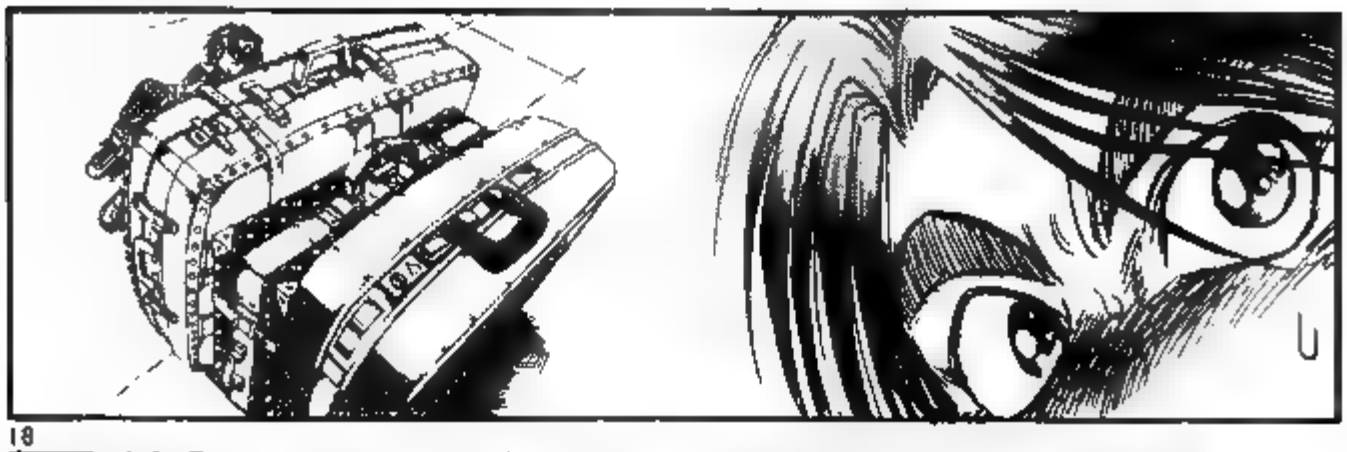
WE'RE GOING TO KILL YOU, SADA-YOSHI!
AND IN THE NAME OF OUR SAVIOR, SHOUJI-SAMA ...

黒賀人
PUP-PETEERS FROM KUROGA VILLAGE.

I DON'T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!
IF YOU LOSE YOUR FATHER, AND ANY-THING ODD HAPPENS; RUN AWAY AT ONCE.
WAIT! YOU'RE WRONG! GRANDPA WOULD NEVER WANT ME TO...!

THESE ARE ...!

ガリン



SO YOU'RE GOING TO RUN AWAY, SADA-YOSHI?!

Ending Bonus

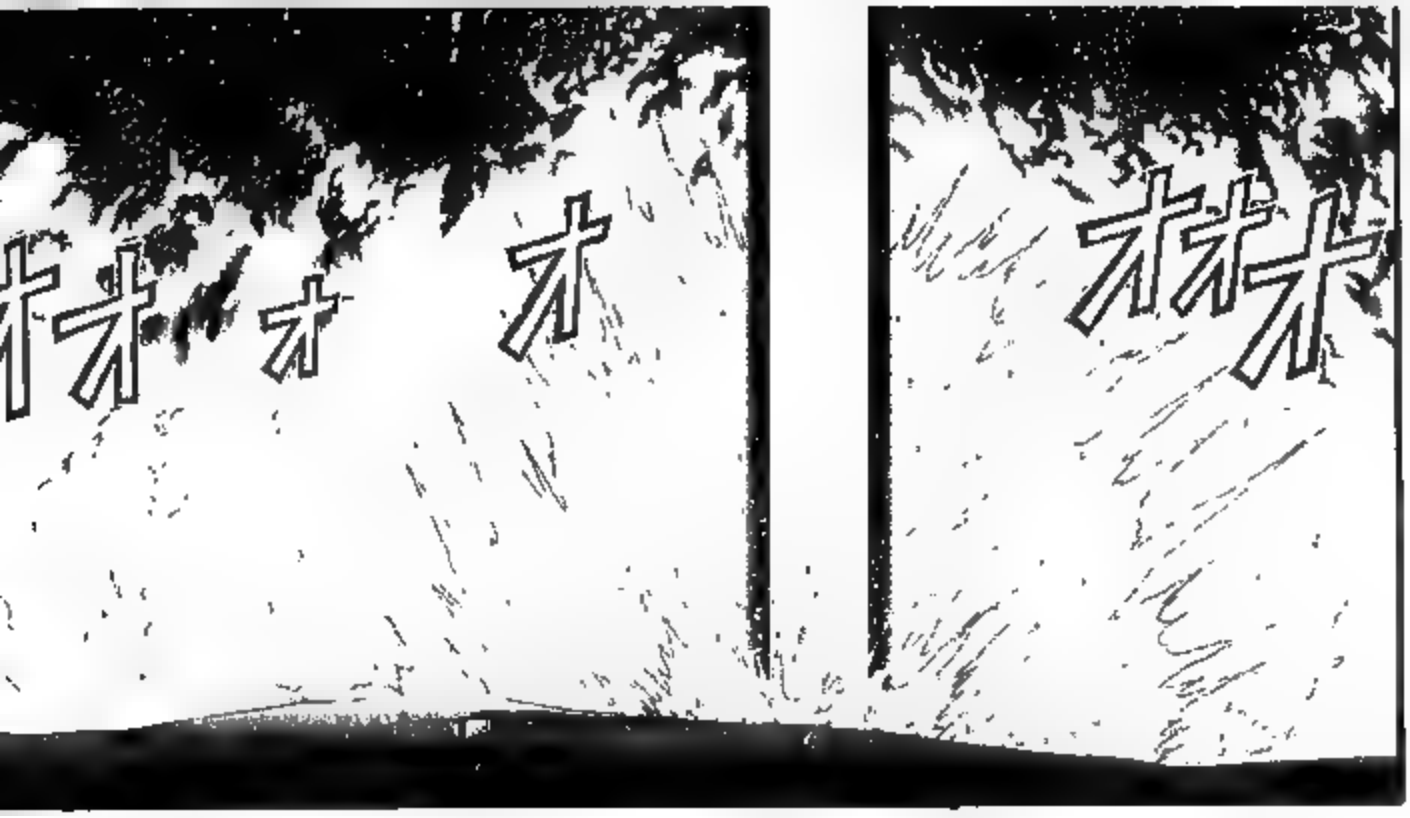
KARAKURI CIRCUS WITH THE STAFF THERE TOO

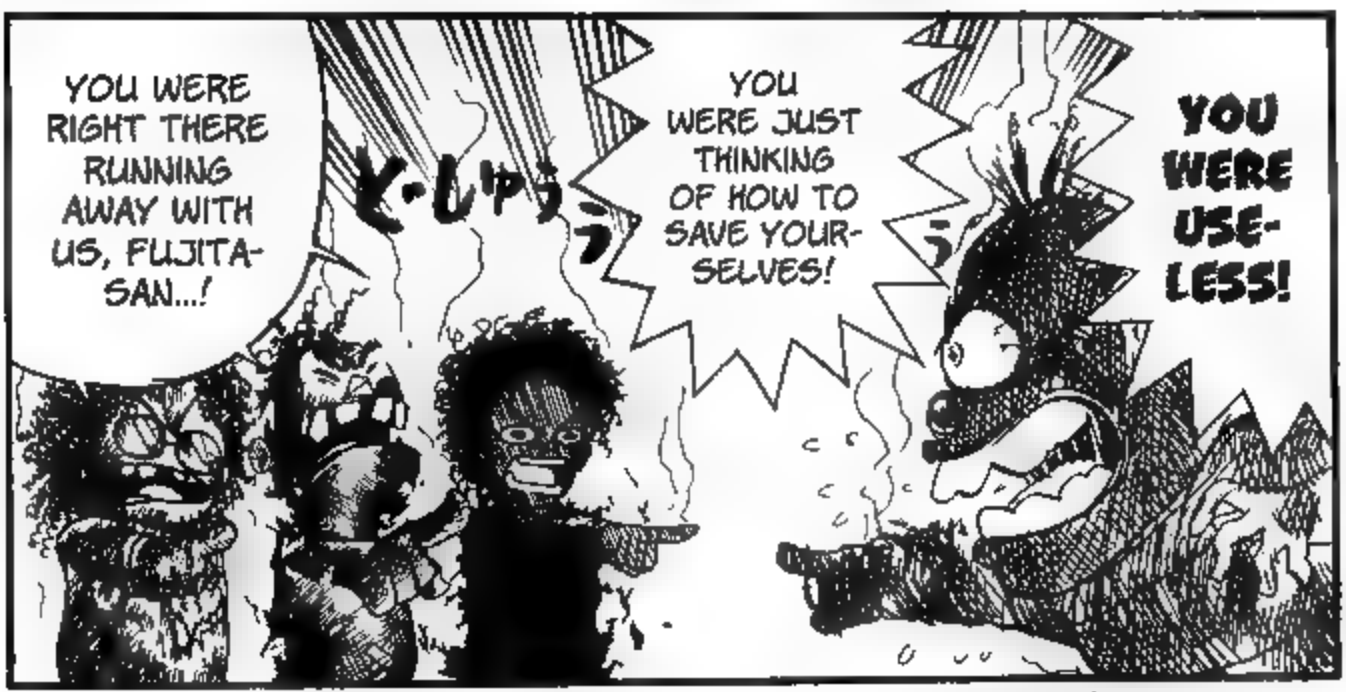
RESCUE NARUMI AND MASARU!! EDITION

by Ufujita Kazuhirou and assistants

I SEE. ACTUALLY, I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO HELP OUT IN A MANGA MYSELF!
FUJITA-SAN, PLEASE PUT US INTO KARA-KURI CIRCUS. WE'LL COME IN REAL HANDY!

NARUMI!
DON'T WORRY! THERE'S STILL THE LONG-LEGGED CLOWN!
AHHH, WE'RE DEAD! WE'RE GONNA DIE...!




YOU WERE RIGHT THERE RUNNING AWAY WITH US, FUJITA-SAN...!
ビ・ビリリリ
YOU WERE JUST THINKING OF HOW TO SAVE YOUR-SELVES!
YOU WERE USE-LESS!

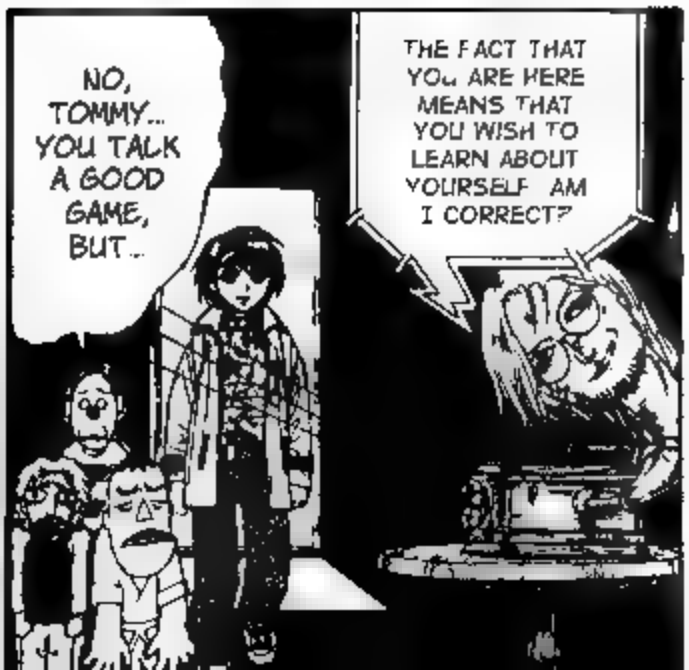
HEADBAND: CHARGE!

NICK !!
THAT ISN'T HOW IT GOES!
DO NOT BE AFRAID, ELEO-NORE
MAITRE GUY...
ゴトン
ガタン
...NOT!!
Are you prone to illness...?
You're the illness here!

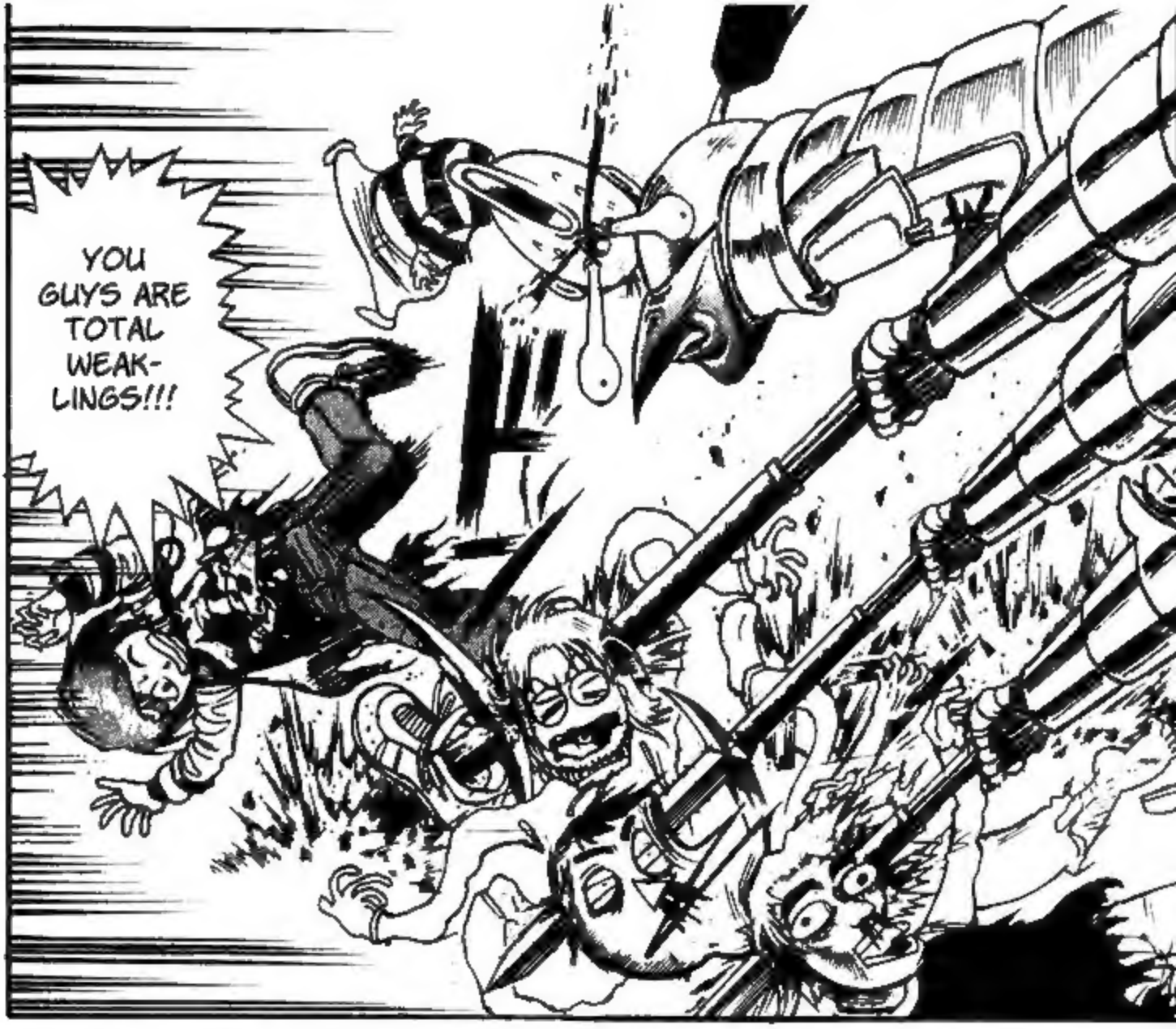
WELL SAID, NEW-COMER TOMMY! LET'S GO!
SENPAI! FUJITA-SAN! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?! WE'RE HERE TO SAVE MASARU!!

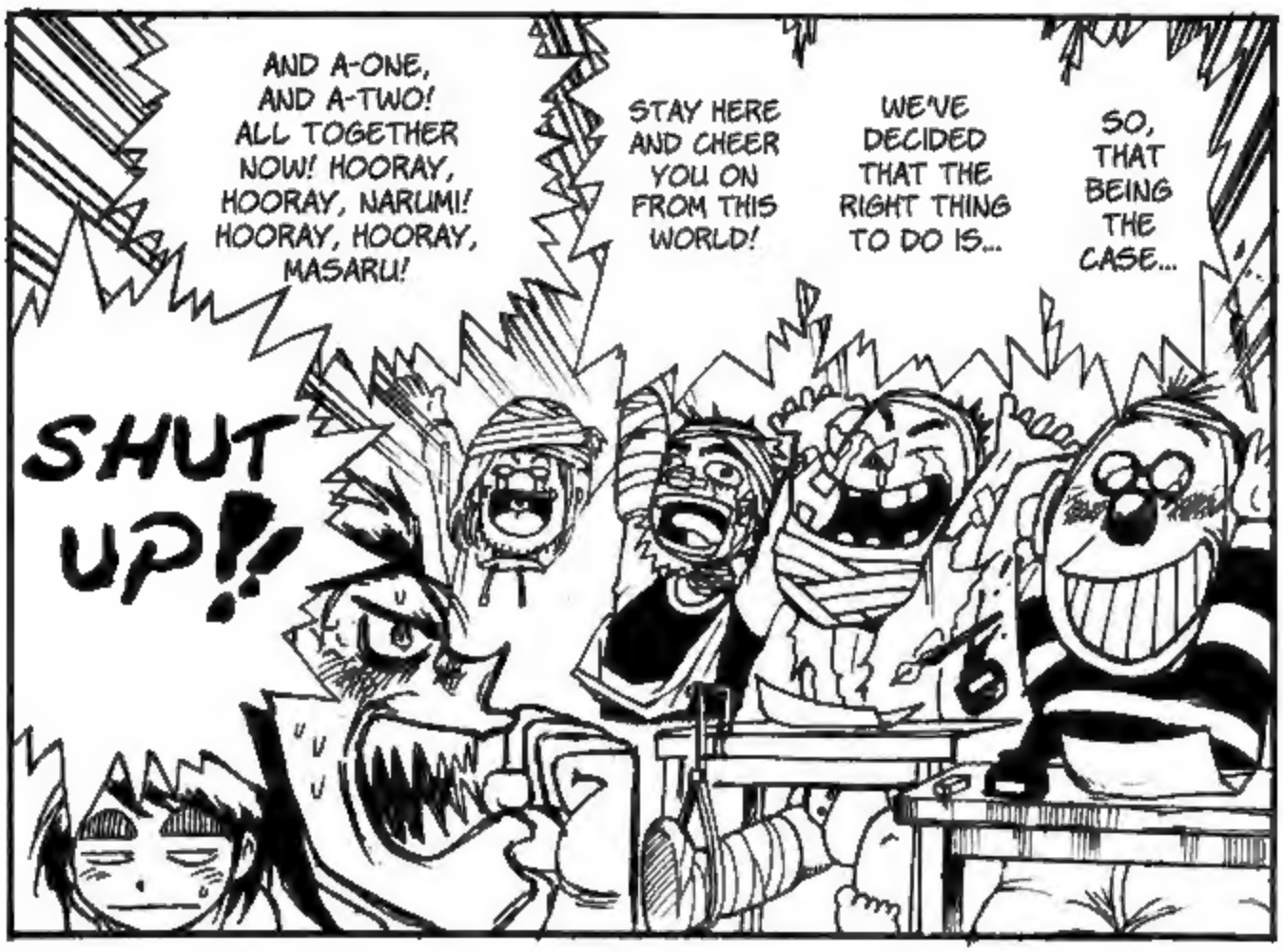
YOU'RE SO UGLY, JOHNNY !!
A total dog!

ボキョン


NO, TOMMY... YOU TALK A GOOD GAME, BUT..
THE FACT THAT YOU ARE HERE MEANS THAT YOU WISH TO LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF AM I CORRECT?

SO THEN... YOU GUYS ARE...!
NEVER FEAR, MASARU!!
WE'RE GONNA PROTECT YA!!
THAT'S RIGHT! EVEN IF IT COSTS US OUR LIVES!!
PLEASE BEAR WITNESS TO OUR BATTLE!
DIE!




AND A-ONE, AND A-TWO! ALL TOGETHER NOW! HOORAY, HOORAY, NARUMI! HOORAY, HOORAY, MASARU!
STAY HERE AND CHEER YOU ON FROM THIS WORLD!
WE'VE DECIDED THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS...
SO, THAT BEING THE CASE...
SHUT UP!!

THAT WAS PRETTY LAME. SORRY. SEE YOU IN VOLUME 23!

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

NOTES:

Sadayoshi starts off referring to the Download in the past tense because he intends this to be an explanation of Masaru's present situation. **On page 4**, he starts using the future tense because he's explaining the specific actions he intends to perform. The Download has been completed by the time Masaru listens to the recording. He's not being expected to surgically implant a chip in his own head.

 # pg. 6: The name Sadayoshi uses for these three puppets is a new one, 懸糸傀儡, *kenshi kugutsu:* distance + thread + a word referring specifically to puppets that are somehow controlled. 人形 (*ningyou*, human + shape) is the word most commonly used, which covers both unmoving dolls and puppets that move by any means, whether by strings or by *karakuri* clockwork. The French/English word marionette (マリオネット, *marionetto*) is used for the Shirogane's puppets, and the kanji used beneath the furigana is 操り人形 (*ayatsuri ningyou*, manipulated doll/puppet).

The words on the truck imply that it belongs to some kind of business. I considered Kuroga Puppetry, Ltd., or Kuroga Puppet Shop, but I felt like both options made too much of a leap about the business's size.

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Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.

からくりサーカス㉒

少年サンデーコミックス

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